

T H E
W O R K S
O F
Alexander Pope Esq.

V O L U M E V.

Containing the

D U N C I A D,
I N
F O U R B O O K S.

D U B L I N:

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M DCC LXX.



THE
D U N C I A D,
I N
FOUR BOOKS,
WITH THE
PROLEGOMENA of SCRIBLERUS,
THE
HYPERCRITICS of ARISTARCHUS,
A N D
NOTES VARIORUM.

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Susan

Chiff

(v)

A
L E T T E R
T O T H E
P U B L I S H E R,

Occasioned by the first correct
E D I T I O N of the D U N C I A D.

I T is with pleasure I hear, that you have procured a correct copy of the DUNCIAD, which the many surreptitious ones have rendered so necessary; and it is yet with more, that I am informed it will be attended with a COMMENTARY: A work so requisite, that I cannot think the Author himself would have omitted it, had he approved of the first appearance of this Poem.

Such *Notes* as have occurred to me I herewith send you: You will oblige me by inserting them amongst those which are, or will be, transmitted to you by others; since not only the Author's friends, but even strangers, appear engaged by humanity, to take some care of an Orphan of so much genius and spirit, which its parent seems to have abandoned from the very beginning, and suffered to creep into the world naked, unguarded, and unattended.

It was upon reading some of the abusive papers lately published, that my great regard to a Person, whose Friendship I esteem as one of the chief honours of my life, and a much greater respect to Truth, than to him or any man living, engaged me in enquiries, of which the inclosed *Notes* are the fruit.

I perceived, that most of these authors had been (doubtless very wisely) the first aggressors. They had tried, 'till they were weary, what was to be got by railing at each other: Nobody was either concerned or surprised, if this or that scribbler was proved a

dunce. But every one was curious to read what could be said to prove Mr. POPE one, and was ready to pay something for such a discovery : A stratagem, which would they fairly own, it might not only reconcile them to me, but screen them from the resentment of their lawful Superiors, whom they daily abuse, only (as I charitably hope) to get that *by* them, which they cannot get *from* them.

I found this was not all : Ill success in that had transported them to Personal abuse, either of himself, or (what I think he could less forgive) of his friends. They had called men of virtue and honour bad Men, long before he had either leisure or inclination, to call them bad Writers : And some had been such old offenders, that he had quite forgotten their persons as well as their slanders, till they were pleased to revive them.

Now what had Mr. POPE done before, to incense them ? He had published those works which are in the hands of every body, in which not the least mention is made of any of them. And what has he done since ? He has laughed, and written the DUNCIAD. What has that said of them ? A very serious truth, which the public had said before, that they were dull : And what it had no sooner said, but they themselves were at great pains to procure or even purchase room in the prints, to testify under their hands to the truth of it.

I should still have been silent, if either I had seen any inclination in my friend to be serious with such accusers, or if they had only meddled with his Writings ; since whoever publishes, puts himself on his trial by his Country. But when his Moral character was attacked, and in a manner from which neither truth nor virtue can secure the most innocent ; in a manner, which, tho' it annihilates the credit of the accusation with the just and impartial, yet aggravates very much the guilt of the accusers ; I mean by Authors *without names* : then I thought, since the danger was common to all, the concern ought to be so ; and that it was an act of justice to detect the authors, not only on this account, but as many of them are

the same who for several years past have made free with the greatest names in Church and State, exposed to the world the private misfortunes of families, abused all, even to Women, and whose prostituted papers (for one or other party, in the unhappy divisions of their Country) have insulted the Fallen, the Friendless, the Exiled, and the Dead.

Besides this, which I take to be a public concern, I have already confessed I had a private one. I am one of that number who have long loved and esteemed Mr. POPE; and had often declared it was not his capacity or writings (which we ever thought the least valuable part of his character) but the honest, open, and beneficent man, that we most esteemed, and loved in him. Now, if what these people say were believed, I must appear to all my friends either a fool, or a knave; either imposed on myself, or imposing on them; so that I am as much interested in the confutation of these calumnies, as he is himself.

I am no Author, and consequently not to be suspected either of jealousy or resentment against any of the Men, of whom scarce one is known to me by sight; and as for their Writings, I have sought them (on this one occasion) in vain, in the closets and libraries of all my acquaintance. I had still been in the dark, if a Gentleman had not procured me (I suppose from some of themselves, for they are generally much more dangerous friends than enemies) the passages I send you. I solemnly protest I have added nothing to the malice or absurdity of them; which it behoves me to declare, since the vouchers themselves will be so soon and so irrecoverably lost. You may in some measure prevent it, by preserving at least their Titles*, and discovering (as far as you can depend on the truth of your information) the Names of the concealed authors.

The first objection I have heard made to the Poem is, that the persons are too *obscure* for satyr. The persons themselves, rather than allow the objection,

* Which we have done in a List printed in the Appendix.

would forgive the satire; and if one could be tempted to afford it a serious answer, were not all assassins, popular insurrections, the insolence of the rabble without doors, and of domestics within, most wrongfully chastised, if the Meanness of offenders indemnified them from punishment? On the contrary, Obscurity renders them more dangerous, as less thought of: Law can pronounce judgment only on open facts; Morality alone can pass censure on intentions of mischief; so that for secret calumny, or the arrow flying in the dark, there is no public punishment left, but what a good writer inflicts.

The next objection is, that these sort of authors are *poor*. That might be pleaded as an excuse at the Old Bailey, for lesser crimes than Defamation, (for 'tis the case of almost all who are tried there) but sure it can be none: For who will pretend that the robbing another of his Reputation supplies the want of it in himself? I question not but such authors are poor, and heartily wish the objection were removed by any honest livelihood. But Poverty is here the accident, not the subject: He who describes Malice and Villainy to be pale and meagre, expresses not the least anger against Paleness or Leanness, but against Malice and Villainy. The Apothecary in Romeo and Juliet is poor; but is he therefore justified in vending poison? Not but Poverty itself becomes a just subject of satire, when it is the consequence of vice, prodigality, or neglect of one's lawful calling; for then it increases the public burden, fills the streets and highways with Robbers, and the garrets with Clippers, Coiners, and Weekly Journalists.

But admitting that two or three of these offend less in their morals, than in their writings; must Poverty make nonsense sacred? If so, the fame of bad authors would be much better consulted than that of all the good ones in the world; and not one of an hundred had ever been called by his right name.

They mistake the whole matter: It is not charity to encourage them in the way they follow, but to get them out of it; for men are not bunglers because they are poor, but they are poor because they are bunglers.

Is it not pleasant enough to hear our authors crying out on the one hand, as if their persons and characters were too sacred for satire; and the public objecting on the other, that they are too mean even for Ridicule? But whether Bread or Fame be their end, it must be allowed, our Author, by and in this Poem, has mercifully given them a little of both.

There are two or three, who by their rank and fortune have no benefit from the former objections, supposing them good, and these I was sorry to see in such company. But if, without any provocation, two or three Gentlemen will fall upon one, in an affair wherein his interest and reputation are equally embarked; they cannot certainly, after they have been content to print themselves his enemies, complain of being put into the number of them.

Others, I am told, pretend to have been once his Friends. Surely they are their enemies who say so, since nothing can be more odious than to treat a friend as they have done. But of this I cannot persuade myself, when I consider the constant and eternal aversion of all bad writers to a good one.

Such as claim a merit from being his Admirers I would gladly ask, if it lays him under a personal obligation? At that rate he would be the most obliged humble servant in the world. I dare swear for these in particular, he never desired them to be his admirers, nor promised in return to be theirs: That had truly been a sign he was of their acquaintance; but would not the malicious world have suspected such an approbation of some motive worse than ignorance, in the author of the Essay on Criticism? Be it as it will, the reasons of their Admiration and of his Contempt are equally subsisting, for his works and theirs are the very same that they were.

One, therefore, of their assertions, I believe may be true. "That he has a contempt for their writings." And there is another, which would probably be sooner allowed by himself than by any good judge beside, "That his own have found too much success with the public." But as it cannot consist with his mo-

deſty to claim this as a juſtice, it lies not on him, but entirely on the public, to defend its own judgment.

There remains what in my opinion might ſeem a better plea for theſe people, than any they have made uſe of. If Obscurity or Poverty were to exempt a man from ſatire, much more ſhould Folly or Dulneſs, which are ſtill more involuntary; nay, as much ſo as perſonal Deformity. But even this will not help them: Deformity becomes an object of Ridicule when a man ſets up for being handſome; and ſo muſt Dulneſs when he ſets up for a Wit. They are not ridiculed, becauſe Ridicule in itſelf is, or ought to be, a pleaſure; but becauſe it is juſt to undeceive and vindicate the honeſt and unpretending part of mankind from impoſition, becauſe particular intereſt ought to yield to general, and a great number, who are not naturally Fools, ought never to be made ſo, in complaiſance to a few who are. Accordingly we find that in all ages, all vain pretenders, were they ever ſo poor or ever ſo dull, have been conſtantly the topics of the moſt candid ſatiriſts, from the Codrus of JUVENAL to the Damon of BOILEAU.

HAVING mentioned BOILEAU, the greateſt Poet and moſt judicious Critic of his age and country, admirable for his Talents, and yet perhaps more admirable for his Judgment in the proper application of them; I cannot help remarking the reſemblance betwixt him and our Author, in Qualities, Fame, and Fortune; in the diſtinctions ſhewn them by their Superiors, in the general eſteem of their Equals, and in their extended reputation amongſt Foreigners; in the latter of which ours has met with the better fate, as he has had for his Translators perſons of the moſt eminent rank and abilities in their reſpective nations ^b. But the reſemblance holds in nothing more, than in their being

^b Eſſay on Criticiſm, in French verſe, by General Hamilton; the ſame, in verſe alſo, by Monſieur Roboton, Counſellor and Privy Secretary to King George I. after by the Abbé Reynel, in verſe, with notes. Rape of the Lock, in French, by the Princeſs of Conti, Paris, 1728. and in Italian verſe, by the Abbé

equally abused by the ignorant pretenders to Poetry of their times ; of which not the least memory will remain but in their own Writings, and in the Notes made upon them. What BOILEAU has done in almost all his poems, our Author has only in this : I dare answer for him he will do it in no more ; and on this principle, of attacking few but who had slandered him he could not have done it all, had he been confined from censuring obscure and worthless persons, for scarce any other were his enemies. However, as the parity is so remarkable, I hope it will continue to the last : and if ever he shall give us an edition of this Poem himself, I may see some of them treated as gently, on their repentance or better merit, as Per-rault and Quinault were at last by Boileau.

In one point I must be allowed to think the character of our English poet the more amiable. He has not been a follower of Fortune or Success ; he has lived with the Great without flattery ; been a Friend to Men in power without pensions, from whom, as he asked, so he received no favour, but what was done Him in his Friends. As his Satires were the more just for being delayed, so were his Panegyrics ; bestowed only on such persons as he had familiarly known, only for such virtues as he had long observed in them, and only at such times as others cease to praise, if not begin to calumniate them, I mean when out of power or out of fashion. A satire, therefore, on writers

Conti a Noble Venetian ; and by the Marquis Rangoni, Envoy Extraordinary from Modena to King George II. Others of his works by Salvini of Florence, &c. His Essays and Dissertations on Homer, several times translated in French. Essay on Man, by the Abbé Reynel, in verse, by Monsieur Silhouet, in prose, 1737. and since by others in French, Italian, and Latin.

^c As Mr. Wycherly, at the time the Town declaimed against his book of Poems ; Mr. Walsh, after his death ; Sir William Trumbull, when he had resigned the office of Secretary of State ; Lord Bolingbroke, at his leaving England after the Queen's death ; Lord

xii A L E T T E R, &c.

so notorious for the contrary practice, became no man so well as himself; as none, it is plain, was so little, in their friendships, or so much in that of those whom they had most abused, namely the Greatest and Best of all Parties. Let me add a further reason, that, tho' engaged in their Friendships, he never espoused their Animosities; and can almost singly challenge this honour, not to have written a line of any man which, through Guilt, through Shame, or through Fear, through variety of Fortune, or change of interests, he was ever unwilling to own.

I shall conclude with remarking what a pleasure it must be to every reader of Humanity, to see all along that our Author in his very laughter is not indulging his own ill-nature, but only punishing that of others. As to his Poem, those alone are capable of doing it justice, who, to use the words of a great writer, know how hard it is (with regard both to his subject and his manner) VETUSTIS DARE NOVITATEM, OBSOLETIS NITOREM, OBSCURIS LUCEM, FASTIDITIS GRATIAM.

I am, your most humble servant,

St. James's,
Dec. 22, 1728.

WILLIAM CLELAND d.

Oxford in his last decline of life; Mr. Secretary Craggs, at the end of the South Sea year, and after his death: Others only in Epitaphs.

d This Gentleman was of Scotland, and bred at the University of Utrecht, with the Earl of Mar. He served in Spain under Earl Rivers. After the Peace, he was made one of the Commissioners of the Customs in Scotland, and then of Taxes in England, in which having shewn himself for twenty years diligent, punctual, and incorruptible, though without any other assistance of Fortune, he was suddenly displaced by the Minister in the sixty eighth year of his age; and died two months after, in 1741. He was a person of Universal Learning, and an enlarged Conversation; no man had a warmer heart for his Friend, or a sincerer attachment to the Constitution of his Country. And yet for all this, the Public will not allow him to be the author of this Letter.

MARTINUS SCRIBLERUS

H I S

Prolegomena and Illustrations

T O T H E

D U N C I A D :

W I T H T H E

Hyper-critics of ARISTARCHUS.

MARKETIN TO KINGS

THE LANCET AND THE LANCET

D. H. N. C. AND D.

DENNIS, Remarks on Prince ARTHUR.

I CANNOT but think it the most *reasonable* Thing in the World, to distinguish Good-writers by discouraging the Bad. Nor is it an *ill-natured* Thing, in Relation even to the very *Persons* upon whom the Reflections are made. It is true, it may deprive them, a little the sooner, of a *short Profit* and a *transitory Reputation*; but then it may have a good Effect, and oblige them (before it be too late) to decline that for which they are so very *unfit*, and to have Recourse to *something* in which they may be more successful.

CHARACTER of Mr. P. 1716.

THE *Persons* whom Boileau has attacked in his Writings, have been for the most Part *Authors*, and most of those *Authors*, *Poets*: And the Censures he hath passed upon them hath been confirmed by all Europe.

GILDON, Pref. to his New REHEARSAL.

IT is the common Cry of the *Poetasters* of the Town, and their Fautors, that it is an *ill natured Thing* to expose the *Pretenders*

to Wit and Poetry. The Judges and Magistrates may with full as good Reason be reproached with *Ill-nature* for putting the Laws in Execution against a Thief or Impostor.—The same will hold in the Republic of Letters, if the Critics and Judges will let every ignorant *Pretender* to scribbling pass on the World.

THEOBALD, Letter to Mist, June 22,
1728.

ATTACKS may be levelled, either against *Failures* in *Genius*, or against the *Pretensions* of *writing without one*.

CONCANEN, Ded. to the Author of
the DUNCIAD.

A *Satire* upon *Dulness* is a Thing that has been *used* and *allowed* in *All Ages*.

*Out of thine own Mouth will I judge thee,
wicked Scribbler!*

TESTIMONIES

O F

A U T H O R S

Concerning our POET and his WORKS.

M. SCRIBLERUS Lectori S.

BEFORE we present thee with our exertations on this most delectable Poem (drawn from the many volumes of our Adversaria on modern Authors) we shall here, according to the laudable usage of editors, collect the various judgments of the Learned concerning our Poet: Various indeed, not only of different authors, but of the same authors at different seasons. Nor shall we gather only the Testimonies of such eminent Wits, as would of course descend to posterity, and consequently be read without our collection; but we shall likewise with incredible labour seek out for divers others, which, but for this our diligence, could never at the distance of a few months appear to the eye of the most curious. Hereby thou may'st not only receive the delectation of Variety, but also arrive at a more certain judgment, by a grave and circumspect comparison of the Witnesses with each other, or of each with himself. Hence also thou wilt be enabled to draw reflections, not only of a critical, but a moral nature, by being let into many particulars of the Person as well as Genius, and of the Fortune as well as Merit, of our Author: In which if I relate some things of little concern peradventure to thee, and some of as little even to him; I intreat thee to consider how minutely all true critics and commentators are wont to insist upon such, and how material they seem to themselves, if to none other. Forgive me, gentle reader, if (following learned example) I ever and anon become tedious: allow me to take the same pains to find whether my author were good or bad, well or ill-natured, modest or arrogant; as another, whether his author was fair or brown, short or tall, or whether he wore a coat or a cassock.

We purposed to begin with his Life, Parentage, and Education : But as to these, even his cotemporaries do exceedingly differ. One saith ^a, he was educated at home ; another ^b, that he was bred at St. Omer's by Jesuits ; a third ^c, not at St. Omer's, but at Oxford ; a fourth ^d, that he had no University education at all. Those who allow him to be bred at home, differ as much concerning his Tutor : One saith ^e, he was kept by his father on purpose ; a second ^f, that he was an itinerant priest ; a third ^g, that he was a parson ; one ^h calleth him a secular clergyman of the church of Rome ; another ⁱ, a monk. As little do they agree about his Father, whom one ^k supposeth, like the father of Hesiod, a tradesman or merchant ; another ^l, a husbandman ; another ^m, a hatter, &c. Nor has an author been wanting to give our Poet such a father as Apuleius hath to Plato, Jamblichus to Pythagoras, and divers to Homer, namely, a Dæmon : For thus Mr. Gildon ⁿ : " Certain it is, that his original is " not from Adam, but the Devil ; and that he want- " eth nothing but horns and tail to be the exact re- " semblance of his infernal Father." Finding, there- fore, such contrariety of opinions, and (whatever be ours of this sort of generation) not being fond to en-

^a Giles Jacob's Lives of the Poets, vol. ii. in his Life. ^b Dennis's Reflect. on the Essay on Crit.

^c Dunciad dissected, p. 4. ^d Guardian, No 40.

^e Jacob's Lives, &c. vol. ii. ^f Dunciad dissected, p. 4. ^g Farmer P. and his son. ^h Dunc. dissect.

ⁱ Characters of the times, p. 45. ^k Female Dunc. p. ult. ^l Dunc. dissect.

^m Roome, Paraphrase on the 4th of Genesis, printed 1729.

ⁿ Character of Mr. P. and his Writings, in a Letter to a Friend, printed for S. Popping, 1716, p. 10. Curl, in his Key to the Dunciad (first edit. said to be printed for A. Dodd) in the 10th page, declared Gildon to be author of that libel ; though in the subsequent editions of his Key he left out this assertion, and affirmed (in the Curliad, p. 4. and 8.) that it was written by Dennis only.

ter into controversy, we shall defer writing the life of our Poet, 'till authors can determine among themselves what Parents or Education he had, or whether he had any Education or Parents at all.

Proceed we to what is more certain, his Works, tho' not less uncertain the judgments concerning them; beginning with his ESSAY ON CRITICISM, of which hear first the most ancient of Critics,

Mr. JOHN DENNIS.

" His precepts are false or trivial, or both; his thoughts are crude and abortive, his expressions absurd, his numbers harsh and unmusical, his rhymes trivial and common;—instead of majesty, we have something that is very mean; instead of gravity, something that is very boyish; and instead of perspicuity and lucid order, we have but too often obscurity and confusion." And in another place: " What rare *numbers* are here! Would not one swear that this youngster had espoused some antiquated Muse, who had sued out a divorce from some superannuated sinner, upon account of impotence, and who, being poxed by her former spouse, has generated gout in her decrepid age, which makes her *bubble so damnably* o?"

No less peremptory is the censure of her hypercritical Historian,

Mr. OLDMIXON.

" I dare not say any thing of the Essay on Criticism in verse; but if any more curious reader has discovered in it something *new*, which is not in Dryden's prefaces, dedications, and his essay on dramatic poetry, not to mention the French critics, I should be very glad to have the benefit of the discovery p."

o Reflections critical and satirical on a Rhapsody, called, an Essay on Criticism. Printed for Bernard Lintot, octavo.

p Essay on Criticism in prose, octavo, 1728. by the author of the Critical History of England.

He is followed (as in fame, so in judgment) by the modest and simple-minded

Mr. LEONARD WELSTED ;

Who, out of great respect to our Poet not naming him, doth yet glance at his Essay, together with the Duke of Buckingham's, and the Criticisms of Dryden, and of Horace, which he more openly taxeth q :
 " As to the numerous treatises, essays, arts, &c. both
 " in verse and prose, that have been written by the
 " moderns on this ground-work, they do but *backney*
 " *the same thoughts over again*, making them still
 " more *trite*. Most of their pieces are nothing but
 " a pert, insipid heap of *common-place*. Horace has
 " even in his Art of Poetry thrown out several
 " things which plainly shew, he thought an Art of
 " Poetry was of no use, even while he was writing
 " one."

To all which great authorities, we can only oppose that of

Mr. ADDISON.

" r The Art of Criticism (saith he) which was published some months since, is a master-piece in its kind. The observations follow one another, like those in Horace's Art of Poetry, without that methodical regularity which would have been requisite in a prose writer. They are some of them *uncommon*, but such as the reader must assent to, when he sees them explained with that ease and perspicuity in which they are delivered. As for those which are the *most known* and the *most received*, they are placed in so beautiful a light, and illustrated with such apt allusions, that they have in them all the graces of novelty ; and make the reader, who was before acquainted with them, still more convinced of their truth and solidity. And here give me leave to mention what Monsieur Boileau has so well enlarged upon in the preface to his works :

q Preface to his Poems, p. 18, 53.

r Spectator, No 253.

“ That wit and fine writing doth not consist so much
 “ in advancing things that are new, as in giving
 “ things that are known an agreeable turn. It is im-
 “ possible for us who live in the latter ages of the
 “ world, to make observations in criticism, morality,
 “ or any art or science, which have not been touch’d
 “ upon by others ; we have little else left us, but to
 “ represent the common sense of mankind in more
 “ strong, more beautiful, or more uncommon lights.
 “ If a reader examines Horace’s Art of Poetry, he
 “ will find but few precepts in it which he may not
 “ meet with in Aristotle, and which were not com-
 “ monly known by all the poets of the Augustan age.
 “ His way of expressing, and applying them, not his
 “ invention of them, is what we are chiefly to admire.
 “ Longinus, in his Reflexions, has given us the
 “ same kind of sublime, which he observes in the se-
 “ veral passages that occasioned them : I cannot but
 “ take notice that our English author has after the
 “ same manner exemplified several of the precepts in
 “ the very precepts themselves.” He then produces
 some instances of a particular beauty in the numbers,
 and concludes with saying, that “ there are three
 “ poems in our tongue of the same nature, and each
 “ a master-piece in its kind ; The Essay on Transla-
 “ ted Verse ; the Essay on the Art of Poetry ; and
 “ the Essay on Criticism.”

Of WINDSOR FOREST, positive is the judgment of
 the affirmative

MR. JOHN DENNIS.

“ s That it is a wretched rhapsody, impudently
 “ writ in emulation of the Cooper’s Hill of Sir John
 “ Denham : The author of it is obscure, is ambigu-
 “ ous, is affected, is temerarious, is barbarous t.”
 But the author of the Dispensary,

s Letter to B. B. at the end of the Remarks on Pope’s
 Homer, 1717.

t Printed 1728, p. 12.

Dr. GARTH,

in the preface to his poem of Claremont, differs from this opinion: "Those who have seen these two excellent poems of Cooper's Hill and Windsor Forest, the one written by Sir John Denham, the other by Mr. Pope, will shew a great deal of candour if they approve of this."

Of the Epistle of ELOISA, we are told by the obscure writer of a poem called Sawney, "That because Prior's Henry and Emma charmed the finest tastes, our Author writ his Eloise, *in opposition to it*; but forgot innocence and virtue; If you take away her tender thoughts, and her fierce desires, all the rest is of no value." In which, methinks, his judgment resembleth that of a French taylor on a Villa and gardens by the Thames: "All this is very fine, but take away the river, and it is good for nothing."

But very contrary hereunto was the opinion of

Mr. PRIOR

himself, saying in his *Alma* u,

O *Abelard*! ill fated youth,
Thy tale will justify this truth.
But well I weet thy cruel wrong
Adorns a nobler Poet's song:
Dan Pope, for thy misfortune griev'd,
With kind concern and skill has weav'd
A filken web; and ne'er shall fade
Its colours: gently has he laid
The mantle o'er thy sad distress,
And Venus shall the texture bless, &c.

Come we now to his translation of the *ILIAD*, celebrated by numerous pens, yet shall it suffice to mention the indefatigable

u *Alma*, Cant. 2.

Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE, Kt.

Who (tho' otherwise a severe censurer of our Author) yet styleth this a "laudable translation w." That ready writer

Mr. OLDMIXON,

in his forementioned Essay, frequently commends the same, And the painful

Mr. LEWIS THEOBALD

thus extols it x, "The spirit of Homer breathes all
" through this translation.—I am in doubt, whether
" I should most admire the justness to the original, or
" the force and beauty of the language, or the sound-
" ing variety of the numbers: But when I find all
" these meet, it puts me in mind of what the poet
" says of one of his heroes, That he alone raised and
" flung with ease a weighty stone, that two common
" men could not lift from the ground; just so, one
" single person has performed in this translation, what
" I once despaired to have seen done by the force of
" several masterly hands." Indeed the same gentleman appears to have changed his sentiment in his Essay on the Art of sinking in reputation, (printed in Mist's journal, March 30, 1728.) where he says thus:
" In order to sink in reputation, let him take it into
" his head to descend into Homer (let the world wonder, as it will, how the devil he got there) and
" pretend to do him into English, so his version denote his neglect of the manner how." Strange Variation! We are told in

MIST's JOURNAL, June 8.

" That this translation of the Iliad was not in all respects conformable to the fine taste of his friend Mr. Addison; insomuch that he employed a *younger muse*, in an undertaking of this kind, which he supervised himself." Whether Mr. Addison did find it conformable to his taste or not, best appears

w In his Essays, vol. i. printed for E. Curl.

x Censor, vol. ii. n. 33.

from his own testimony the year following its publication, in these words :

Mr. ADDISON, FREEHOLDER, No 40.

" When I consider myself as a British freeholder, I am in a particular manner pleased with the labours of those who have improved our language with the translations of old Greek and Latin authors.—We have already most of their Historians in our own tongue, and, what is more for the honour of our language, it has been taught to express with elegance the greatest of their Poets in each nation. The illiterate among our own countrymen may learn to judge from Dryden's Virgil of the most perfect Epic performance. And those Parts of Homer which have been published already by Mr. Pope give us reason to think that the Iliad will appear in English with as little disadvantage to that immortal poem."

As to the rest, there is a slight mistake, for this *younger Muse* was an *elder* : Nor was the gentleman (who is a friend of our Author) employ'd by Mr. Addison to translate it *after him*, since he saith himself that he did it *before* y. Contrariwise that Mr. Addison engaged our Author in this work appeareth by declaration thereof in the preface to the Iliad, printed some time before his death, and by his own letters of October 26, and November 2, 1713. where he declares it is his opinion, that no other person was equal to it.

Next comes his Shakespear on the stage : " Let him (quoth one, whom I take to be

Mr. THEOBALD, Milt's Journal, June 8, 1728.)

" publish such an author as he has least studied, and forget to discharge even the dull duty of an editor. In this project let him lend the bookfeller his name (for a

* Vid. pref. to Mr. Tickel's translation of the first book of the Iliad, 4to.

“ competent sum of money) to promote the credit of
 “ an exorbitant subscription.” Gentle reader, be
 pleased to cast thine eye on the *Proposal* below quoted,
 and on what follows (some months after the former as-
 sertion) in the same Journalist of June 8. “ The book-
 “ seller proposed the book by subscription, and raised
 “ some thousands of pounds for the same: I believe
 “ the gentleman did *not* share in the profits of this ex-
 “ travagant subscription.

“ After the *Iliad*, he undertook (saith

MIST’S JOURNAL, June 8, 1728,)

“ the sequel of that work, the *Odyssey*; and, having
 “ secured the success by a numerous subscription, he
 “ employed some *underlings* to perform what, according
 “ to his proposals, should come from his own hands.”
 To which heavy charge we can in truth oppose nothing
 but the words of

Mr. POPE’S PROPOSAL for the ODYSSEY,
 (printed by J. Watts, Jan. 10, 1724.)

“ I take this occasion to declare that the subscription,
 “ for Shakespear belongs wholly to Mr. Tonson: And
 “ that the benefit of *this Proposal* is not solely for my
 “ own use, but for that of *two of my friends*, who have
 “ *assisted me in this work*.” But these very gentlemen
 are extolled above our poet himself in another of Mist’s
 Journals, March 30, 1728, saying, “ That he would
 “ not advise Mr. Pope to try the experiment again of
 “ getting a great part of a book done by assistants, lest
 “ those extraneous parts should unhappily ascend to the
 “ sublime, and retard the declension of the whole.”
 Behold! these *underlings* are become good writers!

If any say, that, before the said proposals were print-
 ed, the subscription was begun without declaration of
 such assistance; verily those who set it on foot, or (as
 their term is) secured it, to wit, the right honourable
 the Lord Viscount HARCOURT, were he living, would
 testify, and the right honourable the Lord BATHURST,
 now living, doth testify the same is a falshood.

Sorry I am, that Persons professing to be learned, or
 of whatever rank of authors, should either falsely tax,

or be fallſly taxed. Yet let us, who are only reporters, be impartial in our citations, and proceed.

MIST's JOURNAL, June 8, 1728.

“ Mr. Addiſon raiſed this author from obſcurity, obtained him the acquaintance and friendſhip of the whole body of our nobility, and transferred his powerful intereſts with thoſe great men to this riſing bard, who frequently levied by that means unuſual contributions on the public.” Which ſurely cannot be, if, as the author of the *Dunciad* diſſected reporteth; “ Mr. Wycherley had before introduced him into a familiar acquaintance with the greateſt Peers and brighteſt Wits then living.”

“ No ſooner (ſaith the ſame Journaliſt) was his body lifeleſs, but this author, reviving his reſentment, libelled the memory of his departed friend; and, what was ſtill more heinous, made the ſcandal public.” Grievous the accuſation! unknown the accuſer! the perſon accuſed no witneſs in his own cauſe; the perſon, in whoſe regard accuſed, dead! But if there be living any one nobleman whoſe friendſhip, yea any one gentleman whoſe ſubſcription Mr. Addiſon procured to our author; let him ſtand forth, that truth may appear! *Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, ſed magis amica veritas.* In verity, the whole ſtory of the libel is a lye; witneſs thoſe perſons of integrity, who, ſeveral years before Mr. Addiſon's deceaſe, did ſee and approve of the ſaid verſes in no wiſe a libel, but a friendly rebuke ſent privately in our author's own hand to Mr. Addiſon himſelf, and never made public, 'till after their own Journals, and Curl had printed the ſame. One name alone, which I am here authoriſed to declare, will ſufficiently evince this truth, that of the right honourable the Earl of BURLINGTON.

Next is he taxed with a crime (in the opinion of ſome authors, I doubt, more heinous than any in morality) to wit, Plagiariſm, from the inventive and quaint-conceited.

JAMES-MOORE SMITH Gent.

“^z Upon reading the third volume of Pope’s Miscellanies, I found five lines which I thought excellent; and happening to praise them, a gentleman produced a modern comedy (the rival modes) published last year, where were the same verses to a tittle.

“ These gentlemen are undoubtedly the first plagiarists, that pretend to make a reputation by stealing from a man’s works in his own life time, and out of a publick print.” Let us join to this what is written by the author of the Rival Modes, the said Mr. James-Moore Smith, in a letter to our author himself, who had informed him, a month before that play was acted, Jan, 27, 172⁶/₇, that “ These verses, which he had before given him leave to insert in it, would be known for his, some copies being got abroad. He desires, nevertheless, that, since the lines had been read in his comedy to several, Mr. P. would not deprive it of them,” &c. Surely if we add the testimonies of the Lord BOLINGBROKE, of the Lady to whom the said verses were originally addressed, of Hugh Bethel Esq; and others, who knew them as our author’s, long before the said gentleman composed his play; it is hoped, the ingenuous, that affect not error, will rectify their opinion by the suffrage of so honourable personages.

And yet followeth another charge, insinuating no less than his enmity both to Church and State, which could come from no other informer than the said

Mr. JAMES-MOORE SMITH.

“ a The Memoirs of a Parish clerk was a very dull and unjust abuse of a person who wrote in defence of our Religion and Constitution, and who has been dead many years.” This seemeth also most untrue; it being known to divers that these memoirs were written at the Seat of the Lord Harcourt in Oxfordshire, before that excellent person (bishop Burnet’s) death, and many years before the appearance of that history, of

^z Daily Journal, March 18, 1728.

^a Daily Journal, April 3, 1728.

which they are pretended to be an abuse. Most true it is, that Mr. Moore had such a design, and was himself the man who pressed Dr. Arbuthnot and Mr. Pope to assist him therein; and that he borrowed those Memoirs of our author, when that history came forth, with intent to turn them to such abuse. But being able to obtain from our author but one single hint, and either changing his mind, or having more mind than ability, he contented himself to keep the said Memoirs, and read them as own to all his acquaintance. A noble person there is, into whose company Mr. Pope once chanced to introduce him, who well remembereth the conversation of M. Moore to have turned upon the "Contempt he had for the work of that reverend prelate, and how full he was of a design he declared himself to have of exposing it." This noble person is the Earl of PETERBOROUGH.

Here, in truth should we crave pardon of all the aforesaid right honourable and worthy personages, for having mentioned them in the same page with such weekly riff-raff railers and rhymers, but that we had their ever-honoured commands for the same; and that they are introduced not as witnesses in the controversy, but as witnesses that cannot be controverted; not to dispute, but to decide.

Certain it is, that dividing our writers into two classes, of such who were acquaintance, and of such who were strangers, to our author; the former are those who speak well, and the other those who speak evil of him. Of the first Class, the most noble

JOHN Duke of BUCKINGHAM
sums up his character in these lines:

- "^b And yet so wond'rous, so sublime a thing,
- " As the great Iliad, scarce could make me sing,
- " Unless I justly could at once commend
- " A good companion, and as firm a friend;
- " One moral, or a mere well-natur'd deed,
- " Can all desert in sciences exceed."

So also is he decyphered by the honourable
SIMON HARCOURT.

^b Verses to Mr. P. on his translation of Homer.

" Say, wond'rous youth, what column wilt thou chuse,
 " What laurel'd arch, for thy triumphant Muse?
 " Tho' each great ancient court thee to his shrine,
 " Tho' ev'ry laurel thro' the dome be thine,
 " Go to the good and just, an awful train!
 " *Thy soul's delight.* —

Recorded in like manner for his virtuous disposition,
 and gentle bearing, by the ingenious

Mr. W A L T E R H A R T,

in this apostrophe:

" O! ever worthy ever crown'd with praise!
 " Blest in thy *life* and blest in all thy *lays*.
 " Add, that the Sisters ev'ry thought refine,
 " And ev'n thy *life* be *faultless* as thy line.
 " Yet envy still with fiercer rage pursues,
 " Obscures the *virtue*, and defames the Muse.
 " A soul like thine, in pain, in grief, resign'd,
 " Views with just scorn the malice of mankind."

The witty and moral satyrist

Dr. E D W A R D Y O U N G.

wishing some check to the corruption and evil manners
 of the times, calleth out upon our poet to undertake
 a task so worthy of his virtue:

" Why slumbers Pope, who leads the Muse's train,
 " Nor hears that *Virtue*, which he *loves*, complain?

M. M A L L E T,

In his epistle on Verbal Criticism:

" Whose life, severely scan'd, transcends his lays;
 " For wit supreme is but his second praise."

Mr. H A M M O N D.

That delicate and correct imitator of Tibullus, in his
 Love Elegies, Elegy xiv.

" Now, fir'd by Pope and *Virtue*, leave the age,
 " In low pursuit of self-undoing wrong,
 " And trace the author thro' his moral page,
 " Whose blameless life still answers to his song"

c Poem prefix'd to his works.

d In his Poems, printed for B. Lintot.

e Universal Passion, Sat. i.

Mr. THOMSON,

In his elegant and philophical poem of the Seasons:

“ Altho’ not sweeter his own Homer sings,

“ Yet is his *life* the more endearing song.

To the same tune also singeth that learned clerk of Suffolk

Mr. WILLIAM BROOME.

“ ‘ Thus, nobly rising in fair *Virtue’s* cause,“ From thy own *life* transcribe th’ *unerring laws*.”

And, to close all, hear the reverend Dean of St. Patrick’s:

“ A Soul with ev’ry virtue fraught,

“ By Patriots, Priests, and Poets taught.

“ Whose filial Piety excells

“ Whatever Grecian story tells.

“ A genius for each bus’ness fit,

“ Whose meanest talent is his Wit,” &c.

Let us now recreate thee by turning to the other side, and shewing his Character drawn by those with whom he never conversed, and whose countenances he could not know, though turned against him: First again commencing with the high voiced and never enough quoted

Mr. JOHN DENNIS;

Who, in his Reflections on the Essay on Criticism, thus describeth him: “ A little affected hypocrite, who has
 “ nothing in his mouth but candour, truth, friendship,
 “ good-nature, humanity. and magnanimity. He is
 “ so great a lover of falshood, that, whenever he has
 “ a mind to calumniate his cotemporaries. he brands
 “ them with some defect which is just *contrary to some*
 “ *good quality*, for which all their friends and their acquaintance commend them. He seems to have a
 “ particular pique to *People of Quality*, and authors
 “ of that rank.—He must derive his religion from St. Omer’s.”—But in the Character of Mr. P. and his writings (printed by S. Popping, 1716.) he saith,
 “ Though he is a professor of the worst religion, yet
 “ he *laughs at it*,” but that “ nevertheless, he is a

‘ In his Poems, and at the end of the Odysey.

“ *virulent Papist* ; and yet a *Pillar* for the *Church* of
“ *England* ?

Of both which opinions

Mr. LEWIS THEOBALD

seems also to be ; declaring, in *Mist's Journal* of June
22. 1718. “ That, if he is not shrewdly abused, he
“ made it his practice to cackle to both *parties* in their
“ own sentiments.” But, as to his *pique* against *People*
of quality, the same Journalist doth not agree, but saith
(May 8, 1728.) “ He had, by some means or other,
“ the *acquaintance* and *friendship* of the *whole body* of
“ *our nobility*.”

However contradictory this may appear, Mr. Dennis
and Gildon, in the character last cited, make it all
plain, by assuring us, “ That he is a creature that re-
“ conciles all contradictions ; he is a beast, and a man ;
“ a Whig, and a Tory ; a writer (at one and the same
“ time) of *Guardians* and *Examiners* ; and Assertor
“ of liberty, and of the dispensing power of kings ;
“ a Jesuitical professor of truth ; a base and a foul
“ pretender to candour.” So that, upon the whole
account, we must conclude him either to have been a
great hypocrite, or a very honest man ; a terrible im-
poser upon both parties, or very moderate to either.

Be it as to the judicious reader shall seem good. Sure
it is, he is little favoured of certain authors, whose
wrath is perilous: For one declares he ought to have
a *price set on his head*, and to be hunted down as a
wild beast ^h. Another protests that he does not know
what may happen ; advises him to *insure his person* ; says
he has *bitter enemies*, and expressly declares it will be
well if he *escapes with his life* ⁱ. One desires he
would *cut his own throat or hang himself* ^k. But
Pasquin seemed rather inclined it should be done by the
Government, representing him engaged in grievous de-
signs with a Lord of Parliament, then, under prose-

^g The Names of two weekly Papers.

^h Theobald, Letter in *Mist's Journal*, June 22. 1728.

ⁱ Smedley. Pref. to *Gulliveriana*, p. 14, 16.

^k *Gulliveriana*, p. 332.

cution ¹ Mr. Dennis himself hath written to a *Minister*, that he is one of the most *dangerous persons in this kingdom*^m. and assureth the public, that he is an *open* and *mortal enemy* to his country: a monster, that *will*, one day, shew as *daring a soul* as a *mad Indian*, who runs a *muck* to kill the first Christian he meets ⁿ. Another gives information of *Treason* discovered in his poem ^o. Mr. Curl boldly supplies an imperfect verse with *Kings* and *Princeesses* ^p. And one Matthew Concanen, yet more impudent, publishes at length the Two most SACCRED NAMES in this Nation, as members of the Dunciad ^q!

This is prodigious! yet it is almost as strange, that in the midst of these invectives his greatest Enemies have (I know not how) borne testimony to some merit in him.

Mr. THEOBALD, in censuring his Shakespear, declares, "He has so great an *esteem* for Mr. Pope, and so high an *opinion* of his *genius* and *excellencies*; that, notwithstanding he professes a *veneration almost rising to Idolatry* for the writings of this inimitable poet, he would be very loth even to do *him* justice, at the expence of that *other gentleman's* character ^r."

Mr. CHARLES GILDON, after having violently attacked him in many pieces, at

¹ Anno 1723.

^m Anno 1729.

ⁿ Preface to Rem. on the Rape of the Lock, p. 12. and in the last page of that treatise.

^o Page 6. 7. of the Preface, by Concanen, to a book intitled, A Collection of all the Letters, Essays, Verses, and Advertisements, occasioned by Pope and Swift's Miscellanies. Printed for A. Moore, octavo, 1712.

^p Key to the Dunciad, 3d edit. p. 18.

^q A List of Persons, &c. at the end of the forementioned Collection of all the Letters, Essays, &c.

^r Introduction to his Shakespear restored, in quarto, p. 3.

last came to wish from his heart, " That Mr. Pope
 " would be prevailed upon to give us Ovid's Epistles
 " by his hand, for it is certain we see the original of
 " Sappho to Phaon with much more life and likeness
 " in his version, than in that of Sir Car. Scrope. And
 " this (he adds) is the more to be wished, because in
 " the English tongue we have scarce any thing truly
 " and naturally written upon Love ¹." He also, in
 taxing Sir Richard Blackmore for his heterodox opinions
 of Homer, challengeth him to answer what Mr. Pope
 hath said in his preface to that poet.

Mr. OLD MIXON

calls him a great master of our tongue ; declares " the
 " purity and perfection of the English language to be
 " found in his Homer ; and, saying there are more
 " good verses in Dryden's Virgil than in any other
 " work, except this of our author only ¹."

The Author of a Letter to Mr. CIBBER
 says, " ² Pope *was* so good a versifier [*once*] that his
 " predecessor Mr. Dryden, and his cotemporary Mr.
 " Prior excepted, the harmony of his numbers *is*
 " equal to any body's. And, that he *had* all the me-
 " rit that a man can have that way." And

Mr. THOMAS COOKE,

after much blemishing our author's Homer, crieth out,

" But in his other works what beauties shine !

" While sweetest Music dwells in ev'ry line.

" These he admir'd, on these he stamp'd his praise,

" And bade them live to brighten future days ^w."

So also one who takes the name of

H. STANHOPE,

the maker of certain verses to Duncan Campbell ^x, in
 that poem, which is wholly a satyr on Mr. Pope, con-
 fesseth,

^{*} Commentary on the Duke of Buckingham's Essay,
 octavo, 1721, p. 97, 98.

¹ In his prose Essay on Criticism.

² Printed by J. Roberts, 1742. p. 11.

^w Battle of Poets, folio, p. 15.

^x Printed under the title of the Progress of Dulness,
 duodecimo, 1728.

" 'Tis true, if finest notes alone could show
 " (Tun'd justly high, or regularly low)
 " That we should fame to these mere vocals give;
 " Pope more than we can offer should receive:
 " For when some gliding river is his theme,
 " His lines run smother than the smoothest
 stream," &c.

MIST's JOURNAL, June 8, 1728.

Although he says, " The smooth numbers of the
 " Dunciad are all that recommend it, nor has it any
 " other merit;" yet that same paper hath these words:
 " The author is allowed to be a perfect master of an
 " easy and elegant versification. *In all his works we*
 " find the most *happy turns*, and *natural similes*, won-
 " derfully short and thick sown."

The Essay on the Dunciad also owns, p. 25. it is
 very full of *beautiful images*. But the panegyric,
 which crowns all that can be said on this Poem, is be-
 stowed by our Laureate,

Mr. COLLEY CIBBER.

who " grants it to be a better Poem of its kind than
 " ever was writ; but adds, " it was a victory over
 " a parcel of poor wretches, whom it was almost co-
 " wardice to conquer.—A man might as well triumph
 " for having killed so many silly flies that offended
 " him. Could he have let them alone, by this time,
 " poor souls! they had all been buried in obli-
 " vion." Here we see our excellent Laureate allows
 the justice of the satyr on every man in it, but *him-
 self*; as the great Mr. Dennis did before him.

The said

Mr. DENNIS and Mr. GILDON.

in the most furious of all their works (the forecited
 Character, p. 5.) do in concert² confess, " That some

¹ Cibber's Letter to Mr. Pope, p. 9, 12.

² *In concert.*] Hear how Mr. Dennis hath proved our
 mistake in this place; " As to my writing in *concert*
 " with Mr. Gildon, I declare upon the honour and
 " word of a gentleman, that I never wrote so much
 " as one line in *concert* with any one man whatsoever,
 " And

"men of good understanding value him for his rhymes." And (p. 17.) "That he has got, like Mr. Bays in the Rehearsal, (that is, like Mr. Dryden) a notable knack at rhyming, and writing smooth verse."

Of his Essay on Man, numerous were the praises bestowed by his avowed enemies, in the imagination that the same was not written by him, as it was printed anonymously.

Thus sang of it even

BEZALEEL MORRIS:

"Auspicious bard! while all admire thy strain;

"All but the selfish, ignorant, and vain;

"I, whom no bribe to servile flattery drew,

"Must pay the tribute to thy merit due:

"Thy Muse, sublime, significant, and clear,

"Alike informs the Soul, and charms the Ear, &c.

And

Mr. LEONARD WELSTED.

thus wrote^a to the unknown author, on the first publication of the said Essay: "I must own, after the re-

"And these two Letters from Gildon will plainly shew that we are not writers in concert with each other.

Sir,

—*The height of my Ambition is to please Men of the best Judgment; and finding that I have entertained my Master agreeably, I have the extent of the Reward of my Labour.*

Sir,

I had not the opportunity of bearing of your excellent Pamphlet 'till this day. I am infinitely satisfied and pleased with it, and hope you will meet with that encouragement your admirable performance deserves, &c.

CH. GILDON;

"Now is it not plain, that any one who sends such compliments to another, has not been used to write in partnership with him to whom he sends them?" Dennis, Rem. on the Dunc. p. 50. Mr. Dennis is therefore welcome to take this piece to himself.

^a In a Letter under his hand, dated March 12, 1733.

“ ception which the vilest and most immoral ribaldry
 “ hath lately met with, I was surpris’d to see what I
 “ had long despaired, a performance deserving the
 “ name of a poet. Such, Sir, is your work. It is,
 “ indeed, above all commendation, and ought to have
 “ been published in an age and country more worthy
 “ of it. If my testimony be of weight any where, you
 “ are sure to have it in the amplest manner,” &c. &c.
 &c.

Thus we see every one of his works hath been extolled by one or other of his most inveterate Enemies; and to the success of them all they do unanimously give testimony. But it is sufficient, *inftar omnium*, to behold the great critic Mr. Dennis, sorely lamenting it, even from the Essay on Criticism to this day of the Dunciad!

“ A most notorious instance (quoth he) of the depravity
 “ of genius and taste, the *approbation* this Essay meets
 “ with ^b— I can safely affirm, that I never attacked
 “ any of these writings, unless they had *success* infinitely
 “ beyond their merit.— This, though an empty, has
 “ been a *popular* scribeler. The epidemic madness of
 “ the times has given him *reputation* ^c. — If after the
 “ cruel treatment so many extraordinary men (Spencer,
 “ Lord Bacon, Ben Johnson, Milton, Butler, Otway,
 “ and others) have receiv’d from this country, for these
 “ last hundred years, I should shift the scene, and shew
 “ all that penury changed at once to riot and profuseness;
 “ and more squandered away upon *one object*, than
 “ would have satisfied the greater part of those extraordinary
 “ men; the reader, to whom this one creature
 “ should be unknown, would fancy him a prodigy of
 “ art and nature, would believe that all the great qualities
 “ of these persons were centered in him alone. —
 “ But if I should venture to assure him, that the PEOPLE
 “ OF ENGLAND had made such a choice—the
 “ reader would either believe me a *malicious enemy*,
 “ and *slanderer*; or that the reign of the last (Queen

^b Dennis, Pref. to his Reflect. on the Essay on Criticism.

^c Pref. to his Rem^s on Homer.

" Anne's) *Ministry* was designed by fate to encourage
" *Fools* ^d."

But it happens, that this our Poet never had any Place, Pension, or gratuity, in any shape, from the said glorious Queen, or any of her Ministers. All he owed, in the whole course of his life, to any court, was a subscription, for his *Homer*, of 200 *l.* from King George I. and 100 *l.* from the prince and princess.

However, lest we imagine our Author's success was constant and universal, they acquaint us of certain works in a less degree of repute, whereof, although owned by others, yet do they assure us he is the writer. Of this sort Mr. DENNIS ^e ascribes to him *two Fables*, whose names he does not tell, but assures us that there is not one jest in them: And an imitation of Horace, whose title he does not mention, but assures us, it is much more execrable than all his works ^f. The DAILY JOURNAL, May 11, 1728, assure us, " He is below Tom. Durfey in the Drama, because (as that writer thinks) the Marriage Hater matched, and the Boarding School are better than the What-d'-ye-call it;" which is not Mr. P.'s, but Mr. Gay's, Mr. GILDON assures us, in his *New Rehearsal*, p. 48. " That he was writing a *play* of the Lady Jane Grey;" but it afterwards proved to be Mr. Row's. We are assured by another, " He wrote a pamphlet called Dr. Andrew Tripe ^g;" which proved to be one Dr. Wagstaff's. Mr. THEOBALD assures us, in mist of the 27th of April, " That the treatise of the *Profound* is very dull, and that Mr. Pope is the author of it." The writer of *Gulliveriana* is of another opinion; and says, " the whole, or greatest part of the merit of this treatise must and can only be ascribed to Gulliver ^h." [Here, gentle reader! cannot I but smile at the strange blindness and positiveness of men; knowing

^d Rem. on Homer, p. 8. 9.

^e Ibid. p. 8.

^f Character of Mr. Pope, p. 7.

^g Ibid. p. 6.

^h Gulliv. p. 336.

the said treatise to appertain to none other but to me, Martinus Scriblerus.]

We are assured, in *Mist* of June 8, "That his own *Plays* and *Farces* would better have adorned the *Dunciad*, than those of Mr. Theobald; for he had "neither genius for Tragedy nor Comedy." Which, whether true or not, is not easy to judge; in as much as he hath attempted neither. Unless we will take it for granted, with Mr. Cibber, that his being once very angry at hearing a friend's Play abused, was an infallible proof the play was his own; the said Mr. Cibber thinking it impossible for a man to be much concerned for any but himself: "Now let any man judge" (said he) by this concern, who was the true mother "of the child?"

But from all that hath been said, the discerning reader will collect, that it little availed our author to have any Candour, since when he declared he did not write for others, it was not credited; as little to have any Modesty since, when he declined writing in any way himself, the presumption of others was imputed to him. If he singly enterprised one great work, he was taxed of Boldness and Madness to a prodigy^k: If he took assistants in another, it was complained of, and represented as a great injury to the public^l. The loftiest heroics, the lowest ballads, treatises against the state or church, satires on lords and ladies, raillery on wits and authors, squabbles with booksellers, or even full and true accounts of monsters, poisons, and murders; of any hereof was there nothing so good, nothing so bad, which hath not at one or other season been to him ascribed. If it bore no other's name, then lay he concealed; if it did, he fathered it upon that author to be yet better concealed; if it resembled any of his styles, then was it evident; if it did not, then disguised he it.

ⁱ Cibber's Letter to Mr. P. p. 11. Dub. Ed.

^k Burnet's *Homerides*, p. 1. of his translation of the *Iliad*.

^l The London and *Mist's Journals*, on his undertaking of the *Odyssey*.

on set purpose. Yea, even direct oppositions in religion, principles, and politics have equally been supposed in him inherent. Surely a most rare and singular character! Of which let the reader make what he can.

Doubtless most Commentators would hence take occasion to turn all to their Author's advantage, and from the testimony of his very Enemies would affirm, That his Capacity was boundless, as well as his imagination; that he was a perfect master of all Styles, and all Arguments; and that there was in those times no other Writer, in any kind, of any degree of excellence, save he himself. But as this is not our own sentiment, we shall determine on nothing; but leave thee, gentle reader, to steer thy judgment equally between various opinions, and to chuse whether thou wilt incline to the Testimonies of Authors avowed, or of Authors concealed; of those who knew him, or of those who knew him not.

MARTINUS SCRIBLERUS

of the P O E M

THIS poem, as it celebrateth the most grave and ancient of things, Chaos, Night, and Dulness; so is it of the most grave and ancient kind. Homer (saith Aristotle) was the first who gave the *Form* and (saith Horace) who adapted the *Measure*, to heroic poesy. But, even before this, may be rationally presumed from what the Ancients have left written, was a piece by Homer composed, of like nature and matter with this of our poet. For of Epic sort it appeareth to have been, yet of matter surely not unpleasant, witness what is reported of it by the learned archbishop Eustathius, in Odyss. x. And accordingly Ari-

flotie, in his Poetic, chap. iv. doth further set forth, that as the Iliad and Odyſſey gave example to Tragedy, ſo did this poem to Comedy its firſt idea.

From theſe authors alſo it ſhould ſeem, that the Hero, or chief perſonage of it was no leſs *obſcure*, and his underſtanding and ſentiments no leſs quaint and ſtrange (if indeed not more ſo) than any of the actors of our poem. MARGITES was the name of this perſonage, whom Antiquity recordeth to have been *Dunce the firſt*; and ſurely, from what we hear of him, not unworthy to be the root of ſo ſpreading a tree, and ſo numerous a poſterity. The poem therefore celebrating him was properly and abſolutely a *Dunciad*; which though now unhappily loſt, yet is its nature ſufficiently known by the infallible tokens aforeſaid. And thus it doth appear, that the firſt Dunciad was the firſt Epic poem, written by Homer himſelf, and anterior even to the Iliad or Odyſſey.

Now, forasmuch as our poet had tranſlated thoſe two famous works of Homer which are yet left, he did conceive it in ſome ſort his duty to imitate that alſo which was loſt: And was therefore induced to beſtow on it the ſame form which Homer's is reported to have had, namely that of Epic poem: with a title alſo framed after the ancient Greek manner, to wit, that of *Dunciad*.

Wonderful it is, that ſo few of the moderns have been ſtimulated to attempt ſome Dunciad! ſince, in the opinion of the multitude, it might coſt leſs pain and oil than an imitation of the greater Epic. But poſſible it is alſo, that, on due reflection, the maker might find it eaſier to paint a Charlemagne, a Brute, or a Godfrey, with juſt pomp and dignity heroic, than a Margites, a Codrus, or a Fleckno.

We ſhall next declare the occaſion and the cauſe which moved our poet to this particular work. He lived in thoſe days, when (after providence had permitted the invention of Printing as a ſcourge for the ſins of the learned) Paper alſo became ſo cheap, and Printers ſo numerous, that a deluge of Authors covered the land: Whereby not only the peace of the honeſt unwriting ſubject was daily moleſted, but unmerciful

demands were made of his applause, yea of his money, by such as would neither earn the one, nor deserve the other. At the same time, the licence of the Press was such, that it grew dangerous to refuse them either; for they would forthwith publish slanders unpunished, the authors being anonymous, and skulking under the wings of Publishers, a set of men who never scrupled to vend either Calumny or Blasphemy, as long as the town should call for it.

^a Now our author, living in those times, did conceive it an endeavour well worthy an honest Satirist, to dissuade the dull, and punish the wicked, *the only way that was left*. In that public-spirited view he laid the plan of his Poem, as the greatest service he was capable (without much hurt, or being slain) to render his dear country. First, taking things from their original, he considereth the causes creative of such Authors, namely *Dulness* and *Poverty*; the one born with them, the other contracted by neglect of their proper talents, though self-conceit of greater abilities. This truth he wrappeth in an *Allegory* ^b (as the construction of Epic poesy requireth) and feigns that one of these Goddesses had taken up her abode with the other, and that they jointly inspired all such writers and such works. ^c He proceedeth to shew the *qualities* they bestow on these authors, and the *effects* they produce ^d: then the *materials*, or *stock* with which they furnish them ^e; and (above all) that *self-opinion* ^f which causeth it to seem to themselves vastly greater than it is, and is the prime motive of their setting up in this sad and sorry merchandize. The great power of these Goddesses acting in alliance (whereof as the one is the mother of Industry, so is the other of Plodding, was to be exemplified in some *one, great*

^a Vide Bossu, Du Poeme Epique, ch. viii.

^b Bossu, chap. vii.

^c Book I. § 32, &c.

^d Ver. 45 to 54.

^e Ver. 57 to 77.

^f Ver. 80.

and *remarkable action* ^z: And none could be more so than that which our poet hath chosen, *viz.* the restoration of the reign of Chaos and Night, by the ministry of Dulness their Daughter, in the removal of her imperial seat from the City to the polite World; as the Action of the *Æneid* is the restoration of the empire of Troy, by the removal of the race from thence to Latium. But as Homer singing only the *Wrath* of Achilles, yet includes in his poem the whole history of the Trojan war; in like manner our author hath drawn into this *single Action* the whole history of Dulness and her children,

A *Person* must next be fixed upon to support this Action. This *Phantom* in the poet's mind must have a *Name* ^h: He finds it to be —; and he becomes of course the Hero of the Poem.

The *Fable* being thus, according to the best Example, one and entire, as contained in the Proposition; the *Machinery* is a continued chain of Allegories, setting forth the whole Power, Ministry, and Empire of Dulness, extended through her subordinate instruments, in all her various operations.

This is branched into *Episodes*, each of which hath its Moral apart, though all conducive to the main end. The Crowd assembled in the second book demonstrates the design to be more extensive than to bad poets only, and that we may expect other Episodes of the Patrons, Encouragers, or Paymasters of such authors, as occasion shall bring them forth. And the third book, if well considered, seemeth to embrace the whole World. Each of the Games relateth to some or other vile class of writers: The first concerneth the Plagiary, to whom he giveth the name of More; the second the libellous Novellist, whom he styleth Eliza; the third, the flattering Dedicator; the fourth, the bawling Critic, or noisy Poet; the fifth, the dark and dirty Party—

^z Bossu, chap. vii, viii.

^h Ibid. chap. viii. Vide Aristot. Poetic. cap. ix.

writer; and so of the rest; assigning to each some proper name or other, such as he could find.

As for the *Characters*, the public hath already acknowledged how justly they are drawn: the manners are so depicted, and the sentiments so peculiar to those to whom applied, that surely to transfer them to any other or wiser personages would be exceeding difficult; And certain it is that every person concerned, being consulted apart, hath readily owned the resemblance of every portrait, his own excepted. So Mr. Cibber calls them, "a parcel of *poor wretches*, so many *filly flies*ⁱ;" "but adds, our Author's Wit is remarkably more bare" and barren, whenever it would fall foul on Cibber, "than upon any other Person whatever."

The *Descriptions* are singular, the *Comparisons* very quaint, the *Narration* various, yet of one colour: The purity and chastity of *Diction* is so preserved, that in the places most suspicious not the *words* but only the *images* have been censured, and yet are those images no other than have been sanctified by ancient and classical Authority, (though, as was the manner of those good times, not so curiously wrapped up) yea, and commented upon by the most grave Doctors, and approved Critics.

As it beareth the name of *Epic*, it is thereby subjected to such severe indispensable rules as are laid on all Neoterics, a strict imitation of the Ancients; inso-much that any deviation, accompanied with whatever poetic beauties, hath always been censured by the sound Critic. How exact that Imitation hath been in this piece, appeareth not only by its general structure, but by particular allusions infinite, many whereof have escaped both the commentator and poet himself; yea divers by his exceeding diligence are so altered and interwoven with the rest, that several have already been, and more will be, by the ignorant abused, as altogether and originally his own.

In a word, the whole poem proveth itself to be the work of our Author, when his faculties are in

ⁱ Cibber's Letter to Mr. P. p. 7, 9, &c.

full vigour and perfection ; at that exact time when years have ripened the judgment, without diminishing the Imagination : which, by good critics, is held to be punctually at forty. For, at that season it was that Virgil finished his Georgics ; and Sir Richard Blackmore, at the like age composing his Arthurs, declared the same to be the very *Acme* and pitch of lie for Epic poesy : Though since he hath altered it to *sixty*, the year in which he published his Alfred^k. True it is, that the talents for *Criticism*, namely, smartnets, quick censure, vivacity of remark, certainty of asseveration, indeed all but acerbity, seem rather the gifts of Youth than of riper Age. But it is far otherwise in *Poetry* ; witness the works of Mr. Rymer and Mr. Dennis, who, beginning with Criticism, became afterwards such Poets as no age hath paralleled. With good reason therefore did our author chuse to write his Essay on that subject at twenty, and reserve for his maturer years this great and wonderful work of the Dunciad.

RICARDUS ARISTARCHUS

OF THE

HERO of the POEM.

OF the Nature of *Dunciad* in general, whence derived, and on what authority founded, as well as of the art and conduct of this our poem in particular, the learned and laborious Scriblerus hath, according to his manner, and with tolerable share of judgment, dissertated. But when he cometh to speak of the *Person* of the *Hero* fitted for such poem, in truth he miserably halts and hallucinates. For, misled by one Monsieur Boffu, a Gallic critic, he prateth of

^k See his Essays.

I cannot tell what *Phantom of a Hero*, only raised up to support the Fable. A putrid conceit! As if Homer and Virgil, like modern Undertakers, who first build their house and then seek out for a tenant, had contrived the story of a War and a Wandering, before they once thought either of Achilles or Æneas. We shall therefore set our good brother and the world also right in this particular, by assuring them, that in the *greater Epic* the prime intention of the Muse is to exalt Heroic Virtue, in order to propagate the love of it among the children of men; and consequently that the Poet's first thought must needs be turned upon a real subject meet for laud and celebration; not one whom he is to make, but one whom he may find, truly illustrious. This is the *primum mobile* of his poetic world, whence every thing is to receive life and motion. For this subject being found, he is immediately ordained, or rather acknowledged, an *Hero*, and put upon such action as becometh the dignity of his character.

But the Muse ceaseth not here her Eagle-flight; For sometimes, satiated with the contemplation of these *Suns* of glory, she turneth downward on her wing and darts with Jove's lightning on the *Goose* and *Serpent* kind. For we may apply to the Muse in her various moods, what an ancient master of wisdom affirmeth of the Gods in general; *Si Dii non irascuntur impiis et iniustis, nec pios utique justosque diligunt. In rebus enim diversis, aut in utramque partem moveri necesse est, aut in neutram. Itaque qui bonos diligit, & malos odit; & qui malos non odit, nec bonos diligit. Quia & diligere bonos ex odio malorum venit; & malos odisse ex bonorum caritate descendit.* Which in our vernacular idiom may be thus interpreted: "If the Gods be not provoked at evil men, neither are they delighted with the good and just. For contrary objects must either excite contrary affections, or no affections at all. So that he who loveth good men must at the same time hate the bad; and he who hateth not bad men cannot love the good; because to love good men proceedeth from an aversion to evil, and to hate evil men from a tenderness to the good." From this delicacy of

the Muse arose the *little Epic*, (more lively and choleric than her elder sister, whose bulk and complection incline her to the flegmatic) and for this ~~same~~ notorious Vehicle of vice and folly was sought out, to make thereof an example. An early instance of which (nor could it escape the accurate Scriblerus) the Father of Epic poem himself affordeth us. From him the practice descended to the Greek Dramatic poets, his offspring; who in the composition of their *Tetralogy*, or set of four pieces, were wont to make the last a *Satiric Tragedy*. Happily one of these ancient *Dunciads* (as we may well term it) is come down unto us amongst the Tragedies of the poet Euripides. And what doth the reader suppose may be the subject thereof? Why in truth, and it is worthy observation, the unequal Contention of an *old, dull, debauched, buffoon Cyclops*, with the heaven-directed *Favourite of Minerva*, who, after having quietly borne all the monster's obscene and impious ribaldry, ended the farce in punishing him with the mark of an indelible brand in his *forehead*. May we not then be excused, if for the future we consider the Epics of Homer, Virgil, and Milton, together with this our poem, as a complete *Tetralogy*, in which the last worthily holdeth the place or station of the *satiric piece*?

Proceed we therefore in our subject. It hath been long, and alas for pity! still remaineth a question, whether the Hero of the *greater Epic* should be an *honest man*? or, as the French critics express it, *un honnête homme*^a; but it never admitted of any doubt but that the Hero of the *little Epic* should be just the contrary. Hence, to the advantage of our *Dunciad*, we may observe how much juster the *Moral* of that Poem must needs be, where so important a question is previously decided.

But then it is not every Knave, nor (let me add) every Fool, that is a fit subject for a *Dunciad*. There must still exist some Analogy, if not Resemblance of Qualities, between the Heroes of the two Poems; and this in order to admit what Neoteric critics call the *Parody*,

^a Si un Heros Poétique doit être un honnête homme. Bossu, du Poème Epique, lib. v. ch. 5.

one of the liveliest graces of the little Epic. Thus it being agreed that the constituent qualities of the greater Epic Hero are *Wisdom, Bravery, and Love*, from whence springeth *heroic Virtue*; it followeth that those of the lesser Epic Hero should be *Vanity, Impudence* and *Debauchery*, from which happy assemblage resulteth *heroic Dullness*, the never-dying subject of this our Poem.

This being confessed, come we now to particulars. It is the character of true *Wisdom*, to seek its chief support and confidence within itself; and to place that support in the resources which proceed from a conscious rectitude of Will. And are the advantages of *Vanity*, when arising to the heroic standard, at all short of this self-complacence? Nay, are they not, in the opinion of the enamoured owner, far beyond it? "Let the world (will such an one say) impute to me what Folly or weakness they please; but till *Wisdom* can give me something that will make me more heartily happy, I am content to be GAZED AT ^b." This we see is *Vanity* according to the *heroic* gage or measure; not that low and ignoble species which pretendeth to *Virtue* we have not, but the laudable ambition of being gazed at for glorying in those *Vices*, which every body knows we have, "The world may ask (says he) why I make my follies publick? Why not? I have passed my time very pleasantly with them ^c." In short, there is no sort of *Vanity* such a Hero would scruple, but that which might go near to degrade him from his high station in this our Dunciad; namely "Whether it would not be *Vanity* in him to take shame to himself for not being a wise man ^d

Bravery, the second attribute of the true Hero, is Courage manifesting itself in every limb; while its correspondent virtue in the mock Hero is that same Courage all collected into the *Face*. And as Power, when drawn together, must needs have more force and spirit

^b Dedication to the Life of C. C.

^c Life, p. 2. Dub. Ed.

^d Life, *ibid*.

than when dispersed, we generally find this kind of courage in so high and heroic a degree, that it insults not only Men, but Gods. Mezentius is without doubt the bravest character in all the *Æneis*; but how? His bravery, we know, was an high courage of blasphemy. And can we say less of this brave man's, who having told us that he placed "his *Summum bonum* in those follies, which he was not content barely to possess, "but would likewise glory in," adds, "*If I am misguided, 'TIS NATURE'S FAULT, and I follow HER*." Nor can we be mistaken in making this happy quality a species of *Courage*, when we consider those illustrious marks of it, which made his *Face* "more known (as he justly boasteth) "than most in the kingdom," and his *Language* to consist of what we must allow to be the most *daring* Figure of Speech, that which is taken from the *Name of God*.

Gentle love, the next ingredient in the true Hero's composition is a mere bird of Passage, or (as Shakespear calls it) *summer-teeming Lust*, and evaporates in the heat of *Youth*; doubtless by that refinement it suffers in passing through those *certain strainers* which our Poet somewhere speaketh of. But when it is let alone to work upon the *Lees*, it acquireth strength by *Old age*; and becometh a lasting ornament to the little Epic. It is true indeed, there is one objection to its fitness for such an use: For not only the Ignorant may think it *common*, but it is admitted to be so, even by Him who best knoweth its value. "Don't you think " (argueth he) to say only a *man has his Whore**, ought "to go for little or nothing? Because *defendit numerus*, "take the first ten thousand men you meet, and I believe you would be no loser if you betted ten to "one, that every single sinner of them, one with another, had been guilty of the same frailty &c." But

* Life, p. 23.

† Alluding to these lines in the E. to Dr. Arbuthnot

"And has not Colley still his Lord and Whore,

"His Butchers Henly, his Free Masons Moore?

‡ Letter to Mr. P. p. 46.

here he seemeth not to have done justice to himself : The man is sure enough a Hero, who hath his Lady at fourscore. How doth his Modesty herein lessen the merit of a *whole well-spent* Life ; not taking to himself the commendation (which *Horace* accounted the greatest in a theatrical character) of continuing to the very dregs the same he was from the beginning.

———*Servetur ad IMUM*
Qualis ab incepto processerit———

But here, in justice both to the Poet and the Hero, let us farther remark, that the calling her *his* where implieth she was *his own*, and not his *neighbour's*. Truly a commendable Continnence ! and such as Scipio himself must have applauded For how much Self-denial was exerted not to covet his Neighbour's whore ? and what disorders must the coveting her have occasioned in that Society, where (according to this Political Calculator) *nine in ten* of all ages have their *concubines* ?

We have now, as briefly as we could devise, gone through the three constituent Qualities of either Hero. But it is not in any, or in all of these that Heroism properly or essentially resideth. It is a lucky result rather from the collision of these lively Qualities against one another. Thus, as from Wisdom, Bravery, and Love, ariseth *Magnanimity*, the object of *Admiration*, which is the aim of the greater Epic ; so from Vanity, Impudence, and Debauchery, springeth *Buffoonry*, the source of *Ridicule*, “ that laughing ornament,” as he well termeth it ^h, of the little Epic.

He is not ashamed (God forbid he ever should be ashamed !) of this Character ; who deemeth, that not *Reason* but *Risibility* distinguisheth the human species from the brutal. “ As Nature (saith this profound Philosopher) distinguished our species from the mute creation by our *Risibility*, her design MUST have been by *that faculty* as evidently to raise our HAPPINESS, as by our *os sublime* (OUR ERECTED FACES) to lift

^h Letter to Mr. P. p. 23.

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“the dignity of our FORM above them ⁱ.” All this considered, how complete a Hero must he be, as well as how happy a Man, whose Risibility lieth not barely in his *Muscles*, as in the common sort, but (as himself informeth us) in his very *spirits*? And whose *O*s *sublime* is not simply an *erect face*, but a brazen head, as should seem by his preferring it to one of Iron, said to belong to the late king of Sweden ^k!

But whatever personal qualities a Hero may have, the examples of Achilles and Æneas shew us, that all those are of small avail, without the constant *assistance of the Gods*: for the subversion and erection of Empires have never been adjudged the work of Man. How greatly soever then we may esteem of his high talents, we can hardly conceive his personal prowess alone sufficient to restore the decayed empire of Dulness. So weighty an atchievement must require the particular favour and protection of the GREAT; who being the natural patrons and supporters of *Letters*, as the ancient Gods were of *Troy*, must first be drawn off and engaged in another Interest, before the total subversion of them can be accomplished. To surmount, therefore, this last and greatest difficulty, we have, in this excellent man, a professed Favourite and Intimado of the Great. And look, of what force ancient Piety was to draw the Gods into the party of Æneas, that, and much stronger is modern Incense, to engage the Great in the party of Dulness.

Thus we have essayed to pourtray or shadow out this noble Imp of Fame. But now the impatient reader will be apt to say, if so many and various graces go to the making up a Hero, what mortal shall suffice to bear his character? Ill hath he read, who seeth not, in every trace of his picture, that *individual*, ALL ACCOMPLISHED PERSON, in whom these rare virtues and lucky circumstances have agreed to meet and centre with the strongest lustre and fullest harmony.

The good Scriblerus indeed, nay the World itself might be imposed on in the late spurious editions, by can't tell what *Sham-Hero* or *Phantom*: But it was not

ⁱ Life, p. 23, 24.

^k Letter, p. 5.

easy to impose on HIM whom this egregious error most of all concerned. For no sooner had the fourth book laid open the high and swelling scene, but he recognized his own heroic Acts: And when he came to the words,

Soft on her lap her Laureat son reclines,

(though *Laureat* imply no more than *one crowned with laurel*, as befitteth any Associate or Consort in Empire) he loudly resented this indignity to violated Majesty. Indeed not without cause, he being there represented as *fast asleep*; so misbecoming the eye of Empire, which, like that of Providence, should never doze nor slumber.

“Hah! (saith he) fast asleep, it seems! that’s a little too strong. Pert and dull at least you might have allowed me, but as seldom asleep as any fool^l.” However the injured Hero may comfort himself with this reflexion, that tho’ it be a *sleep*, yet it is not the *sleep of death*, but of *immortality*. Here he will ^mlive at least, tho’ not *awake*; and in no worse condition than many an enchanted Warrior before him. The famous *Durandarte*, for instance, was, like him, cast into a long slumber by *Merlin*, the *British Bard* and Necromancer: and his example, for submitting to it with a good grace, might be of use to our Hero. For that disastrous knight being sorely pressed or driven to make his answer by several persons of quality, only replied with a sigh, *Patience, and shuffle the cards*ⁿ.

But now, as nothing in this world, no not the most sacred or perfect things either of Religion or Government, can escape the sting of Envy, methinks I already hear these carpers objecting to the clearness of our Hero’s title.

It would never (say they) have been esteemed sufficient to make an Hero for the *Iliad* or *Æneis*, that *Achilles* was brave enough to overturn one Empire, or *Æneas* pious enough to raise another, had they not been God-bless-born and Princes bred. What then did this Author

^l Letter, p. 31.

^m Letter, p. 1.

ⁿ Don Quixote, Part ii. Book ii. ch. 22.

mean by erecting a Player instead of one of his Patrons, (a person "never a hero even on the stage") to this dignity of Collegue in the empire of Dulness, and Achiever of a work that neither old Omar, Attila, nor John of Leiden could entirely bring to pass.

To all this we have, as we conceive, a sufficient answer from the Roman historian, *Fabrum esse suæ quæque fortunæ: That every man is the Smith of his own fortune.* The politic Florentine, Nicholas Machiavel, goeth still farther, and affirmeth, that a man needeth but to *believe himself a Hero* to be one of the worthiest. "Let him (saith he) but fancy himself capable of "the highest things, and he will of course be able to "achieve them." From this principle it follows, that nothing can exceed our Hero's prowess; as nothing ever equalled the greatness of his conceptions. Hear how he constantly paragon himself; at one time to ALEXANDER the Great and CHARLES the XII. of SWEDEN, for the excess and delicacy of his Ambition^p; to HENRY the IV. of FRANCE, for honest Policy^q; to the first BRUTUS, for love of Liberty^r; and to Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, for good Government while in power^s: At another time, to the godlike SOCRATES, for his diversions and amusements^t; to HORACE, MONTAIGNE, and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, for an elegant Vanity that maketh them for ever read and admired^u; to TWO Lord CHANCELLORS, for Law, from whom, when confederate against him at the bar, he carried away the prize of Eloquence^w; and, to say all in a word, to the right reverend the Lord BISHOP of LONDON himself, in the art of writing *pastoral letters*^x.

Nor did his *Actions* fall short of the sublimity of his Conceit. In his early youth he *met the Revolution*^y face to face in Nottingham, at a time when his betters contented themselves with *following* her. It was here he got acquainted with *Old Battle-array*, of whom he hath made so honourable mention in one of his immortal Odes.

° See Life, p. 148. ^p Life, p. 149. ^q P. 424.
^r P. 366. ^s P. 457. ^t P. 18. ^u P. 425. ^w P.
436, 437. ^x P. 52. ^y P. 47.

But he shone in Courts as well as Camps: He was called up when *the nation fell in labour* of this *Revolution*^z; and was a gossip at her christening, with the Bishop and the ladies^a.

As to his *Birth*, it is true he pretendeth no relation either to Heathen God or Goddeſs; but, what is as good, he was descended from a *Maker* of both^b. And that he did not pass himself on the world for a Hero, as well by birth as education, was his own fault: For his lineage he bringeth into his life as an Anecdote, and is sensible he had it in his power *to be thought nobody's son at all*^c: And what is that but coming into the world a Hero?

But be it, (the punctilious Laws of Epic Poesy so requiring) that a Hero of more than mortal birth must needs be had, even for this we have a remedy. We can easily derive our Hero's Pedigree from a Goddeſs of no small power and authority amongst men; and legitimate and intal him after the right classical and authentic fashion: For, like as the ancient Sages found a Son of Mars in a mighty warrior; a Son of Neptune in a skilful Seaman; a Son of Phœbus in a harmonious Poet; so have we here, if need be, a Son of FORTUNE in an artful *Gamester*. And who fitter than the Offspring of *Chance*, to assist in restoring the Empire of *Night* and *Chaos*?

There is in truth another objection of greater weight, namely, "That this Hero still existeth, and hath not yet finished his earthly course. For if Solon said well, that no man could be called happy till his death, surely much less can any one, till then, be pronounced a Hero; this species of men being far more subject than others to the caprices of Fortune and Humour." But to this also we have an answer that will (we hope) be deemed decisive. It cometh from *himself*, who, to cut this matter short, hath solemnly protested, that *he will never change or amend*.

^z P. 57. ^a P. 58, 59. ^b A Statuary. ^c Life, p. 6.

With regard to his *Vanity*, he declareth that nothing shall ever part them. "Nature (saith he) hath amply supplied me in Vanity; a pleasure which neither the pertness of Wit, nor the gravity of Wisdom, will ever persuade me to part with ^d." Our poet had charitably endeavoured to administer a cure to it: But he telleth us plainly, "My superiors perhaps may be mended by him; but for my part I own myself incorrigible. I look upon my Follies as the best part of my Fortune ^e." And with good reason: We see to what they have brought him!

Secondly, as to *Buffoonry*, "Is it (saith he) a time of day for me to leave off these fooleries, and set up a new character? I can no more put off my Follies than my Skin; I have often tried, but they stick too close to me; nor am I sure my friends are displeased with them, for in this light I afford them frequent matter of mirth, &c. &c. ^f" Having then so publickly declared himself *incorrigible*, he is become *dead in law*, (I mean the *law Epopæian*) and devolveth upon the Poet as his property; who may take him, and deal with him, as if he had been dead as long as an old Egyptian hero; that is to say, *embowel and embalm him for posterity*.

Nothing therefore (we conceive) remaineth to hinder his own Prophecy of himself from taking immediate effect. A rare felicity! and what few prophets have had the satisfaction to see, alive! Nor can we conclude better than with that extraordinary one of his, which is conceived in these Oraculous words, MY DULNESS WILL FIND SOMEBODY TO DO IT RIGHT ^g.

*Tandem Phæbus adest, morsusque inferre parantem
Congelat, et patulos, ut erant, INDURAT hiatus ^h.*

^d P. 424. ^e P. 19. ^f P. 17. ^g Ibid. p. 230.
Dub. edit.

^h Ovid, of the serpent biting at Orpheus's head.



By AUTHORITY.

By virtue of the Authority in us
vested by the Act for subjecting Poets to the
power of a Licensor, we have revised this
Piece; where finding the stile and ap=
pellation of KING to have been given to
a certain Pretender, Pseudo-Poet, or Phan=
tom, of the name of TIBBALD; and ap=
prehending the same may be deemed in
some sort a Reflection on Majesty, or at
least an insult on that Legal Authority
which has bestowed on another Person
the Crown of Poesy: We have ordered the
said Pretender, Pseudo-Poet, or Phantom,
utterly to vanish and evaporate out of this
work: And do declare the said Throne
of Poesy from henceforth to be abdicated
and vacant, unless duly and lawfully
supplied by the LAUREATE himself. And
it is hereby enacted, that no other Per=
son do presume to fill the same.

CC. Ch.

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T H E
D U N C I A D:
T O
Dr. JONATHAN SWIFT.

BOOK THE FIRST.

A R G U M E N T.

THE Proposition, the Invocation, and the Inscription. Then the Original of the great Empire of Dulness, and cause of the continuance thereof. The College of the Goddesses in the City, with her private Academy for Poets in particular; the Governors of it, and the four Cardinal Virtues. Then the Poem hastes into the midst of things, presenting her, on the evening of a Lord Mayor's day, revolving the long succession of her Sons, and the glories past and to come. She fixes her eyes on Bays to be the Instrument of that great Event which is the Subject of the Poem. He is described pensive among his Books, giving up the Cause, and apprehending the Period of her Empire: After debating whether to betake himself to the Church, or

to Gaming, or to Party-writing, he raises an Altar of proper Books, and (making first his solemn prayer and declaration) purposes thereon to sacrifice all his unsuccessful writings. As the pile is kindled, the Goddess, beholding the flame from her seat, flies and puts it out, by casting upon it the poem of Thule. She forthwith reveals herself to him, transports him to her Temple, unfolds her Arts, and initiates him into her Mysteries; then denouncing the death of Eusden the Poet Laureate, anoints him, carries him to Court, and proclaims him Successor.



B O O K I.

THE Mighty Mother, and her Son, who brings
The Smithfield Muses to the ear of Kings,

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. I. *The Mighty Mother, &c.* in the first Edd.
it was thus,

Books and the Man I sing, the first who brings
The Smithfield Muses to the ear of Kings,
Say, great Patricians ! since yourselves inspire
These wond'rous works (so Jove and Fate require)
Say, for what cause, in vain decry'd and curst,
Still——

I M I T A T I O N S.

*Say, great Patricians ! since yourselves inspire
These wond'rous works*

—*Dii cæptis (nam vos mutastis & illas.)* Ovid. Met. i.

R E M A R K S.

THE DUNCIAD.] It is an inconvenience, to which Writers of reputation are subject, that the Justice of their resentment is not always rightly understood. For the calumnies of dull Authors being soon forgotten, and those whom they aimed to injure not caring to recal to memory the particulars of false and scandalous abuse, their necessary correction is suspected of severity unprovoked. But, in this case, it would be but candid to estimate the chastisement on the general Character of the offender, compared with that of the Person injured. Let this serve with the candid Reader, in justification of the *Poet* ; and, on occasion, of the *Editor*.

W.

The DUNCIAD, sic MS. It may well be disputed whether this be a right reading. Ought it not rather to be spelled *Dunceiad*, as the Etymology evidently de-

I sing. Say you, her instruments the Great!
Call'd to this work by Dulness, Jove, and Fate.

REMARKS.

mands? *Dunce* with an *e*, therefore *Dunceiad* with an *e*. That accurate and punctual Man of Letters, the Restorer of *Shakespeare*, constantly observes the preservation of this very Letter *e*, in spelling the Name of his beloved Author, and not like his common careless Editors, with the omission of one, nay sometimes of two *ee's*, (as *Shakspear*) which is utterly unpardonable. "Nor is
" the neglect of a *Single Letter* so trivial as to some it
" may appear, the alteration whereof in a learned language is an Atchievement that brings honour to the
" Critic who advances it; and Dr. Bentley will be remembered to posterity for his performances of this
" sort, as long as the world shall have any esteem for the
" remains of Menander and Philemon." THEOBALD.

This is surely a slip in the learned author of the foregoing note; there having been since produced by an accurate Antiquary, an *Autograph* of *Shakespeare* himself, whereby it appears that he spelled his own name without the first *e*. And upon this authority it was, that those most Critical Curators of his Monument in Westminster Abby erased the former wrong reading, and restored the true spelling on a new piece of old *Ægyptian Granite*. Nor for this only do they deserve our thanks, but for exhibiting on the same Monument the first Specimen of an *Edition* of an author in *Marble*; where (as may be seen on comparing the Tomb with the Book) in the space of five lines, two Words and a whole Verse are changed, and it is to be hoped will there stand, and outlast whatever hath been hitherto done in Paper; as for the future, our Learned Sister University (the other Eye of England) is taking care to perpetuate a *Total new Shakespeare*, at the Clarendon press. BENTL.

It is to be noted, that this great Critic also has omitted one circumstance; which is, that the Inscription with the Name of *Shakspeare* was intended to be placed on the Marble Scroll to which he points with his hand;

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 61

You by whose care, in vain decry'd and curst, 5
Still Dunce the second reigns like Dunce the first;

REMARKS.

instead of which it is now placed behind his back, and that Specimen of an Edition is put on the Scroll, which indeed Shakspeare hath great reason to point at. ANON.

Though I have as just a value for the letter *E*, as any Grammarian living, and the same affection for the name of this Poem as any Critic for that of his Author; yet cannot it induce me to agree with those who would add yet another *e* to it, and call it the *Dunceiade*; which, being a French and foreign termination, is no way proper to a word entirely English, and vernacular. One *e* therefore in this case is right, and two *e*'s wrong. Yet upon the whole I shall follow the Manuscript, and print it without any *e* at all; moved thereto by Authority (at all times, with Critics, equal, if not superior to Reason.) In which method of proceeding, I can never enough praise my good friend, the exact Mr. Tho. Hearne; who, if any word occur, which to him and all mankind is evidently wrong, yet keeps he it in the Text with due reverence, and only remarks in the Margin *sic MS.* In like manner we shall not amend this error in the Title itself, but only note it *obiter*, to evince to the learned that it was not our fault, nor any effect of our ignorance or inattention.

SCRIBLERUS.

This poem was written in the year 1726. In the next year an imperfect Edition was published at Dublin, and reprinted at London in twelves; another at Dublin, and another at London in octavo; and three others in twelves the same year. But there was no perfect Edi-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 6. Alluding to a verse of Mr. Dryden, not in Mac Fleckno (as is said ignorantly in the Key to the *Dunciad*, p. 1.) but in his verses to Mr. Congreve,

And Tom the second reigns like Tom the first.

Say, how the Goddess bade Britannia sleep,
And pour'd her Spirit o'er the land and deep.

REMARKS.

tion before that of London in quarto ; which was attended with Notes. We are willing to acquaint Posterity, that this Poem was presented to King George the Second and his Queen by the hands of Sir Robert Walpole, on the 12th of March, 1728-9. SCHOL. VET.

It was expressly confessed in the Preface to the first edition, that this poem was not published by the Author himself. It was printed originally in a foreign Country. And what foreign Country? Why, one notorious for blunders ; where finding blanks only instead of proper names, these blunderers filled them up at their pleasure,

The very *Hero* of the Poem hath been mistaken to this hour ; so that we are obliged to open our Notes with a discovery who he really was. We learn from the former Editor, that this Piece was presented by the hands of Sir Robert Walpole to King George II. Now the author directly tells us, his *Hero* is the Man.

——— who brings
The Smithfield Muses to the ear of Kings.

And it is notorious who the person was on whom this Prince conferred the honour of the *Laurel*.

It appears as plainly from the *Apostrophe* to the *Great* in the third verse, that Tibbald could not be the person, who was never an Author in fashion, or caressed by the *Great* ; whereas this single characteristic is sufficient to point out the true *Hero* ; who, above all other Poets of his time, was the *Peculiar Delight* and *Chosen Companion* of the Nobility of England ; and wrote as he himself tells us, certain of his Works at the *earnest desire of Persons of Quality*.

Lastly, the sixth verse affords full proof ; this Poet being the only one who was universally known to have had a *Son* so exactly like him, in his poetical, theatrical,

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 63

In eldest time, e'er mortals writ or read,
E'er Pallas issu'd from the Thund'rer's head, 10

REMARKS.

political, and moral Capacities, that it could justly
be said of him

Still Duncce the second reign'd like Duncce the first. BENTL.

VER. I. *The Mighty Mother, and her Son, &c.*] The Reader ought here to be cautioned, that the *Mother*, and not the *Son*, is the principal Agent of this Poem: The latter of them is only chosen as her Colleague (as was anciently the custom in Rome before some great expedition) the main action of the Poem being by no means the Coronation of the Laureate, which is performed in the very first book, but the Restoration of the Empire of Dulness in Britain, which is not accomplished till the last. W.

Ibid.—*her Son who brings, &c.*] Wonderful is the stupidity of all the former Critics and Commentators on this work! It breaks forth in the very first line. The author of the Critique prefixed to *Sawney*, a Poem, p. 5. hath been so dull as to explain *the Man who brings, &c.* not of the hero of the piece, but of our Poet himself, as if he vaunted that *Kings* were to be his readers; an honour which though this Poem hath had, yet knoweth he how to receive it with more modesty.

We remit this Ignorant to the first lines of the *Æneid*, assuring him that *Virgil* there speaketh not of himself, but of *Æneas*:

*Arma virumque cano, Trojæ qui primus ab oris
Italiam, fato profugus, Lavinæque venit
Littora: multum ille et terris jactatus et alto, &c.*

I cite the whole three verses, that I may by the way offer a *Conjectural Emendation*, purely my own, upon each: First, *oris* should be read *aris*, it being as we see *Æn. ii. 513.* from the *Altar of Jupiter Hercæus* that *Æneas* fled

Dulness o'er all possess'd her ancient right,
 Daughter of Chaos and eternal Night:
 Fate in their dotage this fair Ideot gave,
 Gross as her fire, and as her mother grave,
 Laborious, heavy, busy, bold, and blind,
 She rul'd, in native Anarchy, the mind.

15

REMARKS.

as soon as he saw *Priam* slain. In the second line I would read *flatu* for *fato*, since it is most clear it was by *Winds* that he arrived at the *shore* of Italy. *Jactatus*, in the third, is surely as improperly applied to *terris*, as proper to *alto*; to say a man is *toft on land*, is much at one with saying *he walks at Sea*: *Risum teneatis, amici?* Correct it, as I doubt not it ought to be, *vexatus*.

SCRIBLERUS.

VER. 2. *The Smithfield Muses*] *Smithfield* is the place where Bartholomew Fair was kept, whose shews, machines, and dramatical entertainments, formerly agreeable only to the taste of the Rabble, were, by the Hero of this poem and others of equal genius, brought to the Theatres of Covent-garden, Lincoln-inn-fields, and the Hay-market, to be the reigning pleasures of the Court and Town. This happened in the reigns of King George I, and II. See Book iii.

VER. 4. *By Dulness, Jove, and Fate:*] i. e. By their *Judgments*, their *Interests*, and their *Inclinations*.

VER. 7. *Say how the Goddesses, &c*] The Poet ventur-eth to sing the *Action* of the Goddesses: but the *Passion* she impresseth on her illustrious Votaries, he thinketh can be only told by themselves.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 12. *Daughter of Chaos, &c*] The beauty of this whole Allegory being purely of the poetical kind, we think it not our proper business, as a Scholiast, to meddle with it: But leave it (as we shall in general all such) to the reader; remarking only that *Chaos* (according to *Hesiod's* *Θεογονία*) was the Progenitor of all the Gods.

SCRIBLERUS.

VER. 15. *Laborious, heavy, busy, bold, &c.*] I wonder the learned Scriblerus has omitted to advertise the

Still her old Empire to restore she tries,
For, born a Goddess, Dulness never dies.

REMARKS.

Reader, at the opening of this Poem, that Dulness here is not to be taken contractedly for mere Stupidity, but, in the enlarged sense of the word, for all slowness of apprehension, shortness of Sight, or imperfect Sense of things. It includes (as we see by the Poets' own words) Labour, Industry, and some degree of Activity and Boldness; a ruling principle not inert, but turning topsy turvy the Understanding, and inducing an Anarchy or confused State of Mind. This remark ought to be carried along with the reader throughout the work; and without this caution he will be apt to mistake the Importance of many of the Characters, as well as of the Design of the Poet. Hence it is, that some have complained he chuses too mean a subject, and imagined he employed himself, like Domitian, in killing flies; whereas those who have the true key will find he sports with nobler quarry, and embraces a larger compass; (as one saith on a like occasion)

*Will see his Work, like Jacob's ladder, rise,
In soot, in dirt, its head amid the skies.* BENTL.

VER. 16. *She rul'd, in native Anarchy, the mind.*] *The native Anarchy of the mind* is that state which precedes the time of Reason's assuming the rule of the Passions. But in that state the uncontrolled violence of the Passions would soon bring things to confusion, were it not for the intervention of DULNESS in this absence of Reason; who, though she cannot regulate them like Reason, yet blunts and deadens their Vigour, and, indeed, produces some of the good effects of it: Hence it is that *Dulness* has often the appearance of Reason. This is the only good she ever did; and the Poet takes particular care to tell it in the very introduction of his Poem. It is to be observed, indeed, that this is spoken of the universal rule of Dulness in ancient days, but we may form an idea of it from her partial Government in later times. W.

O thou! whatever title please thine ear,
 Dean, Drapier, Bickerstaff, or Gulliver! 20
 Whether thou chuse Cervantes' serious air,
 Or laugh and shake in Rab'lais' easy chair,
 Or praise the Court, or magnify Mankind,
 Or thy griev'd Country's copper chains unbind;
 From thy Bœotia tho' her Pow'r retires, 25
 Mourn not, my SWIFT, at aught our Realm acquires.
 Here pleas'd behold her mighty wings out-spread
 To hatch a new Saturnian age of Lead.

Close to those walls where Folly holds her throne,
 And laughs to think Monroe would take her down, 30

VARIATIONS.

After VER. 22. in the MS.

Or in the graver Gown instruct mankind,
 Or silent let thy morals tell thy mind.

But this was to be understood, as the Poet says, *ironicè*,
 like the 23^d Verse.

VER. 29. *Close to those walls, &c.*] In the former
 Edd. thus;

Where wave the tatter'd ensigns of Rag-fair,
 A yawning ruin hangs and nods in air;
 Keen hollow winds howl thro' the bleak recess,
 Emblem of Music caus'd by Emptiness;
 Here in one bed two shiv'ring sisters lie,
 The Cave of Poverty and Poetry.

Var. *Where wave the tatter'd ensigns of Rag-fair,*
Rag-fair is a place near the Tower of London, where
 old cloaths and frippery are sold.

Var. *A yawning ruin hangs and nods in air;—*
Here in one bed two shiv'ring Sisters lie,
The Cave of Poverty and Poetry.

Hear upon this place the forecited Critic on the *Dunciad*.

Where o'er the gates, by the fam'd father's hand,
Great Cibber's brazen, brainless brothers stand;
One Cell there is, conceal'd from vulgar eye,
The Cave of Poverty and Poetry.

VARIATIONS.

"These lines (saith he) have no construction, or are
"nonsense. The two shivering Sisters must be the sister-
"caves of Poverty and Poetry, or the bed and cave of
"Poverty and Poetry must be the same, [*questionless,*
"*if they lie in one bed*] and the two Sisters the lord
"knows who?" O the construction of grammatical
heads! *Virgil* writeth thus: *Æn. i.*

*Fronte sub adversa scopulis pendentibus antrum:
Intus aquæ dulces, vivoque sedilia saxo;
Nympharum domus.* —

May we not say in like manner, "The Nymphs must
"be the waters and the stones, or the waters and the
"stones must be the houses of the Nymphs?" *Insulse!*
The second line, *Intus aquæ, &c.* is in a parenthesis
(as are two lines of our Author, *Keen hollow winds,*
&c.) and it is the *Antrum*, and the yawning *Ruin*, in
the line before that parenthesis, which are the *Domus*
and the *Cave*.

Let me again, I beseech thee, Reader, present thee
with another *Conjectural Emendation* on *Virgil's scopulis*
pendentibus. He is here describing a place, whither
the weary Mariners of *Æneas* repaired to dress their
dinner. — *Fessi — frugesque receptas Et torrere parant*
flammi: What has *scopulis pendentibus* here to do?
Indeed the *aquæ dulces* and *sedilia* are something; *sweet*
waters to drink and *seats* to rest on: the other is surely
an error of the Copyists. Restore it, without the
least scruple, *Populis prandentibus*.

But for this and a thousand more, expect our *Virgil*
Restored, some Specimen whereof see in the Appendix.

SCRIBLERUS.

Keen hollow winds howl thro' the bleak recess, 35
Emblem of Music caus'd by Emptiness.

REMARKS.

VER. 17. *Still her old Empire to restore*] This Restoration makes the Completion of the Poem. *Vide* Book iv.

VER. 20. —*Drapier, Bickerstaff, or Gulliver!*] The several names and characters he assumed in his ludicrous, his splenetic, or his party-writings; which take in all his works.

VER. 22.] —*laugh and shake in Rab'lais' easy chair,*] The imagery is exquisite; and the equivoque in the last words gives a peculiar elegance to the whole expression. The *easy chair* suits his age: *Rab'lais' chair* marks his character: and he fills and possesses it as the heir and successor of that original genius. W.

VER. 24. *Or praise the Court, or magnify Mankind,*] *Ironice*, alluding to *Gulliver's* representations of both. —The next line relates to the papers of the *Drapier* against the currency of *Wood's* copper coin in *Ireland*; which, upon the great discontent of the people, his Majesty was graciously pleased to recal.

VER. 26. *Mourn not, my Swift, at aught our Realm acquires,*] *Ironice iterum*. The Politics of *England* and *Ireland* were at this time by some thought to be opposite, or interfering with each other: *Dr. Swift* of course was in the interest of the latter, our Author of the former.

VER. 28. *To hatch a new Saturnian age of Lead.*] The ancient Golden Age is by Poets styled *Saturnian*, as being under the reign of *Saturn*; but in the Chemical language *Saturn* is *Lead*. She is said here only to be spreading her wings to hatch this age; which is not produced completely till the fourth book.

VER. 31. *By his fam'd father's hand*] *Mr. Caius-Gabriel Cibber*, father of the Poet-Laureate. The two statues of the Lunatics over the gates of *Bedlam-hospital* were done by him, and (as the son justly says of them) are no ill monuments of his fame as an Artist.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 69

Hence Bards, like Proteus long in vain ty'd down,
Escape in Monsters, and amaze the town.

REMARKS.

VER. 33. *One Cell there is.*] The cell of poor Poetry is here very properly represented as a little *unendowed Hall* in the neighbourhood of the *Magnific College* of Bedlam; and as the surest Seminary to supply those learned walls with Professors. For there cannot be a plainer indication of madness than in men persisting to starve themselves and offend the public by scribbling.

Escape in Monsters, and amaze the town.

when they might have benefited themselves and others in profitable and honest employments. The *Qualities* and *Productions* of the Students of this private Academy are afterwards described in this first book; as are also their *Actions* throughout the second; by which it appears, how near allied Dulness is to Madness. This naturally prepares us for the subject of the third book, where we find them in union, and acting in conjunction to produce the Catastrophe of the fourth; a mad poetical Sibyl leading our Hero through the Regions of Vision, to animate him in the present undertaking, by a view of the past triumphs of Barbarism over Science. W.

VER. 34. *Poverty and Poetry.*] I cannot here omit a remark that will greatly endear our Author to every one, who shall attentively observe that Humanity and Candor, which every where appear in him towards those unhappy objects of the ridicule of all mankind, the bad Poets. He here imputes all scandalous rhymes, scurrilous weekly papers, base flatteries, wretched elegies, songs, and verses (even from those sung at Court to ballads in the streets) not so much to malice or servility as to Dulness; and not so much to Dulness as to Necessity. And thus, at the very commencement of his Satire, makes an apology for all that are to be satirized.

VER. 37.] *Hence Bards, like Proteus]*

Sunt, quibus in plures jus est transire figuras:

Hence Miscellanies spring, the weekly boast
Of Curl's chaste press, and Lintot's rubric post: 40

REMARKS.

*Ut tibi, complexi terram maris incola, Proteu ;
Nunc violentus aper ; nunc, quem tetigisse timerent,
Anguis et us ; modo te faciebant cornua Taurum :
Sæpe Lapis poteras.* Ovid. Met. viii.

Neither Palæphatus, Phurnutus, nor Heraclides give us any steady light into the mythology of this mysterious fable. If I be not deceived in a part of learning which has so long exercised my pen, By *Proteus* must certainly be meant a hacknied Town-scribler ; and by his Transformations the various disguises such a one assumes, to elude the pursuit of his irreconcilable enemy, the Bailiff. And in this light, doubtless, Horace understood the Fable, where, speaking of *Proteus*, he says,

*Quum rapiēs in jus malis ridentem alienis,
Fiet aper, &c.*

Proteus is represented as one bred of the mud and slime of Egypt, the original soil of Arts and Letters: And what is a Town-scribler, but a creature made up of the excrements of luxurious Science? By the change then into a *Boar*, is meant his character of a *furious and dirty Party-writer*; the *Snake* signifies a *Libeller*; and the *Horns of the Bull* the *Dilemmas of a Polemical Answerer*. These are the three great parts he acts under; and when he has completed his circle, he sinks back again, as the last change into a *Stone* denotes, into his natural state of immoveable Stupidity. Hence it is that the Poet, where speaking at large of all these various Metamorphoses in the second book, describes *Mother Osborne*, the great Antitype of our *Proteus*, in *ŷ. 312.* after all her changes, as at last quite *stupified to Stone*. If I may expect thanks of the learned world for this discovery, I would by no means deprive that excellent Critic of his share, who discovered before me, that in the character of *Proteus*

Hence hymning Tyburn's elegiac lines,

Hence Journals, Medleys, Merc'ries, MAGAZINES.

VARIATIONS.

VER. 41. In the former lines,

Hence hymning Tyburn's elegiac 'y,

Hence the soft sing song on Cecilia's Day.

VER. 42. Alludes to the annual Songs composed to Music on St. Cecilia's Feast.

REMARKS.

was designed *Sophistam, Magum, Politicum, præsertim rebus omnibus sese accommodantem*. Which in English is, *A Political Writer, a Libeller, and a Disputer, writing indifferently for or against every party in the State, every sect in Religion, and every character in private life*. See my *Fables of Ovid explained*. ABBE BANIER. W.

VER. 40. *Curl's chaste press, and Lintot's rubric post:]* Two Booksellers, of whom see Book ii. The former was fined by the Court of King's Bench for publishing obscene books; the latter usually adorned his shop with titles in red letters.

VER. 41. *Hence hymning Tyburn's elegiac lines.]* It is an ancient English custom for the Malefactors to sing a Psalm at their execution at Tyburn; and no less customary to print Elegies on their deaths, at the same time, or before.

VER. 42. *MAGAZINES:]* The common name of those upstart collections in prose and verse; in which, at some times,

IMITATIONS.

VER. 41, 42. *Hence hymning Tyburn's—Hence, &c.]*

—*Genus unde Latinum,*

Albanique patres, atque altæ mœnia Romæ.

Virg. *Æn. i.*

Sepulchral Lies, our holy walls to grace,
And New-year Odes, and all the Grub-street race.

In clouded Majesty here Dulness shone ; 45
Four guardian Virtues, round, support her throne :

REMARKS.

—new born nonsense first is taught to cry ;

at others, dead-born Scandal has its monthly funeral, where Du'ness assumes all the various shapes of Folly to draw in and cajole the Rabble. The eruption of every miserable Scribler ; the scum of every dirty News-paper ; or Fragments of Fragments, picked up from every Dunghill, under the title of *Papers, Essays, Reflections, Confutations, Queries, Verses, Songs, Epigrams, Riddles, &c.* equally the disgrace of human Wit, Morality, Decency, and Common Sense. P. W.

VER. 43. *Sepulchral Lies,*] Is a just satire on the Flatteries and Falshoods admitted to be inscribed on the walls of Churches, in Epitaphs, which occasioned the following Epigram,

Friend ! in your Epitaphs I'm griev'd,
So very much is said :
One half will never be believ'd,
The Other never read.

VER. 44. *New year Odes,*] Made by the Poet Laureate for the time being, to be sung at Court on every New-year's-day, the words of which are happily drowned in the voices and instruments. The *New year Odes* of the Hero of this work were of a cast distinguished from all that preceded him, and made a conspicuous part of his character as a writer, which doubtless induced our Author to mention them here so particularly,

IMITATIONS.

VER. 45. *In clouded Majesty*]

—the Moon

Rising in clouded Majesty— Milton, Book iv.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 73

Fierce champion Fortitude, that knows no fears
Of hiffes, blows, or want, or loss of ears:
Calm Temperance, whose blessings those partake
Who hunger, and who thirst for scribbling sake: 50
Prudence, whose glass presents th' approaching jayl:
Poetic Justice, with her lifted scale,

REMARKS.

VER. 45. *In clouded Majesty here Dulness sbone ;*] See this Cloud removed, or rolled back, or gathered up to her head, Book iv. Ver. 17, 18. It is worth while to compare this description of the Majesty of Dulness in a state of peace and tranquillity, with that more busy scene where she mounts the throne in triumph, and is not so much supported by her own Virtues, as by the princely consciousness of having destroyed all other.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 50. *Who hunger and who thirst, &c.*] "This is an allusion to a text in Scripture, which shews in "Mr. Pope a delight in prophaneness," said Curl upon this place. But it is very familiar with Shakespear to allude to passages of Scripture. Out of a great number I will select a few, in which he not only alludes to, but quotes the very text from Holy Writ. In All's well that ends well, *I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, I have not much skill in grass.* Ibid. *They are for the flowery way that leads to the broad gate and the great fire.* Matt. vii. 13. In Much ado about nothing, *All, all, and moreover God saw him when he was hid in the garden.* Gen. iii. 8. (in a very jocular scene.) In Love's labour lost, he talks of Samson's carrying the gates on his back. In the Merry wives of Windsor, of Goliath and the weaver's beam; and in Henry IV. Falstaff's

IMITATIONS.

VER. 48. ———— *that knows no fears*
Of hiffes, blows, or want, or loss of ears:]

Quem neque pauperies, neque mors, neque vincula terrent.

Hor.

VOL. V.

D

74 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Where, in nice balance, truth with gold she weighs,
And solid pudding against empty praise.

Here she beholds the Chaos dark and deep, 55
Where nameless Somethings in their causes sleep,
'Till genial Jacob, or a warm Third day,
Call forth each mass, a Poem, or a Play :
How hints, like spawn, scarce quick in embryo lie,
How new-born nonsense first is taught to cry, 60
Maggots half form'd in rhyme exactly meet,
And learn to crawl upon poetic feet.
Here one poor word an hundred clenches makes,
And ductile Dulness new meanders takes ;

REMARKS.

soldiers are compared to Lazarus and the prodigal son.

The first part of this note is Mr. CURL's, the rest is Mr. THEOBALD's Appendix to Shakespear Restor'd, p. 144.

VER. 63. *Here one poor word an hundred clenches makes,*] It may not be amiss to give an instance or two of these operations of *Dulness* out of the works of her Sons, celebrated in the Poem. A great Critic formerly held these clenches in such abhorrence, that he declared, " he that would pun, would pick a pocket." Yet Mr. Dennis's works afford us notable examples in

IMITATIONS.

VER. 55. *Here she beholds the Chaos dark and deep,
Where nameless Somethings, &c.*

That is to say, unformed things, which are either made into Poems or Plays, as the Bookfellers or the Players bid most. These lines allude to the following in Garth's Dispensary, Cant. vi.

*Within the chambers of the globe they spy
The beds where sleeping vegetables lie,
Till the glad summons of a genial ray
Unbinds the globe, and calls them out to day.*

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 75

There motley images her fancy strike, 65
 Figures ill pair'd, and Similies unlike.
 She sees a Mob of Metaphors advance,
 Pleas'd with the madness of the mazy dance ;
 How Tragedy and Comedy embrace,
 How Farce and Epic get a jumbled race ; 70
 How Time himself stands still at her command,
 Realms shift their place, and Ocean turns to land.
 Here gay Description Ægypt glads with show'rs,
 Or gives to Zembla fruits, to Barca flow'rs.

REMARKS.

this kind ; “ *Alexander Pope* hath sent abroad into
 “ the world as many *Bulls* as his namesake Pope *Alex-*
 “ *ander*.——Let us take the initial and final letters
 “ of his name, viz. *A. P—E*, and they give you the
 “ idea of an *Ape*.——*Pope* comes from the Latin
 “ word *Popa*, which signifies a little Wart ; or from
 “ *popysma*, because he was continually *popping* out
 “ squibs of wit, or rather *Popysmata*, or *Popisms*.”
 DENNIS on *Hom.* and Daily Journal, June 11, 1728.

VER. 70, &c. *How Farce and Epic*.—*How Time*
himself, &c.] Allude to the transgressions of the *Uni-*
ties in the Plays of such Poets. For the Miracles
 wrought upon *Time* and *Place*, and the mixture of
 Tragedy and Comedy, Farce and Epic, see *Pluto* and
Proserpine, *Penelope*, &c. if yet extant.

VER. 73. *Ægypt glads with show'rs*,] In the Lower
 Ægypt Rain is of no use, the overflowing of the Nile
 being sufficient to impregnate the soil.—These six verses
 represent the Inconsistencies in the descriptions of poets,

IMITATIONS.

VER. 64. *And ductile Dulness*, &c.] A parody on a
 verse in *Garth*, Cant. i.

How ductile matter new meanders takes.

76 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Glitt'ring with ice here hoary hills are seen,
There painted vallies of eternal green,
In cold December fragrant chaplets blow,
And heavy harvests nod beneath the snow.

75

All these and more the cloud-compelling Queen
Beholds thro' fogs, that magnify the scene.
She, tinsel'd o'er in robes of varying hues,
With self-applause her wild creation views;
Sees momentary monsters rise and fall,
And with her own fools-colours gilds them all.

80

'Twas on the day when * * rich and grave,
Like Cimon, triumph'd both on land and wave:

85

VARIATIONS.

VER. 85. in the former Editions,

'Twas on the day when Thorold, rich and grave,

Sir George Thorold, Lord Mayor of London in
the year 1720.

REMARKS.

who heap together all glittering and gawdy images,
tho' incompatible in one season, or in one scene.

See the Guardian, No 40, parag. 6. See also *Eusebius*'s whole works, if to be found. It would not have
been unpleasant to have given Examples of all these
species of bad writing from these Authors, but that
it is already done in our Treatise of the *Bathos*.

SCRIBL

VER. 83. *Sees momentary monsters rise and fall, And
with her own fools-colours gilds them all.*] i. e. Sets off
unnatural conceptions in false and tumid expression.

W

IMITATIONS.

VER. 79, *The cloud-compelling Queen*] From Ho-
mer's Epithet of Jupiter *νεφεληγίτα Ζεύς*.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 77

(Pomps without guilt, of bloodless swords and maces,
Glad chains, warm furs, broad banners, and broad
faces)

Now Night descending, the proud scene was o'er,
But liv'd in Settle's numbers one day more. 90
Now May'rs and Shrieves all hush'd and satiate lay,
Yet eat, in dreams, the custard of the day.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 85, 86. *'Twas on the day when * * rich and
grave, Like Cimon, triumph'd]* Viz. a Lord Mayor's
day; his name the author had left in blanks, but most
certainly could never be that which the Editor foisted
in formerly, and which no way agrees with the chro-
nology of the poem. BENTL.

The Procession of a Lord Mayor is made partly by
land, and partly by water.—Cimon, the famous Athe-
nian General, obtained a victory by sea, and another
by land, on the same day, over the Persians and Bar-
barians.

VER. 88. *Glad chains,*] The Ignorance of these Mo-
terns! This was altered in one Edition to *Gold Chains*,
showing more regard to the metal of which the chains
of Aldermen are made, than to the beauty of the La-
tinism and Græcism, nay of figurative speech itself:
Lætæ segetes, glad, for making glad, &c. SCRIBL.

VER. 90. *But liv'd in Settle's numbers, one day more.]*
A beautiful manner of speaking, usual with poets in
praise of poetry, in which kind nothing is finer than
those lines of Mr. Addison :

*Sometimes, misguided by the tuneful throng,
I look for streams immortaliz'd in song,
That lost in silence and oblivion lie,
Dumb are their fountains, and their channels dry;
Yet run for ever by the Muses skill,
And in the smooth description murmur still.*

Ibid. *But liv'd in Settle's numbers, one day more.]* Set-
tle was poet to the City of London. His office was to

While pensive Poets painful vigils keep,
 Sleepless themselves, to give their readers sleep.
 Much to the mindful Queen the feast recalls 95
 What City Swans once sung within the walls;
 Much she revolves their arts, their ancient praise,
 And sure succession down from Heywood's days,
 She saw, with joy, the line immortal run,
 Each sire impress'd, and glaring in his son : 100
 So watchful Bruin forms, with plastic care,
 Each growing lump, and brings it to a bear.

REMARKS.

compose yearly panegyrics upon the Lord Mayors, and verses to be spoken in the pageants: But that part of the shows being at length frugally abolished, the employment of City-poet ceased; so that upon Settle's demise there was no successor to that place.

VER. 98. *John Heywood*, whose Interludes were printed in the time of Henry VIII.

VER. 103. *Old Pryn in restless Daniel*] The first edition had it,

She saw in Norton all his father shine :

a great mistake! for Daniel De Foe had parts, but Norton De Foe was a wretched writer, and never attempted poetry. Much more justly is Daniel himself made successor to W. Pryn, both of whom wrote verses as well as Politics; as appears by the Poem *De jure divino*, &c. of De Foe, and by these lines in Cowley's Miscellanies, on the other:

— One lately did not fear
 (*Without the Muse's leave*) to plant Verse here.
 But it produc'd such base, rough, crabbed hedge-
 Rhymes, as e'en set the bearer's ears on edge:
 Written by William Pryn Esquir-e the
 Year of our Lord, six hundred thirty three.
 Brave Jersey Muse! and he's for his high style
 Call'd to this day the Homer of the Iffe.

She saw old Pryn in restless Daniel shine,
And Eusden eke out Blackmore's endless line;

R E M A R K S.

And both these authors had a semblance in their fates as well as writings, having been alike sentenced to the Pillory.

VER. 104. *And Eusden eke out, &c.*] Laurence Eusden, Poet Laureate. Mr. Jacob gives a catalogue of some few only of his works, which were very numerous. Mr. Cook, in his *Battle of the Poets*, saith of him,

*Eusden, a laurel'd Bard, by fortune rais'd,
By very few was read, by fewer prais'd.*

Mr. Oldmixon, in his *Arts of Logic and Rhetoric*, p. 413, 414. affirms, "That of all the Galimatias he ever met with, none comes up to some verses of this poet, which have as much of the Ridiculum and the Fustian in them as can well be jumbled together, and are of that sort of nonsense, which so perfectly confounds all ideas, that there is no distinct one left in the mind." Farther he says of him, "That he hath prophesied his own poetry shall be sweeter than Catullus, Ovid, and Tibullus; but we have little hope of the accomplishment of it, from what he hath lately published." Upon which Mr. Oldmixon has not spared a reflection, "That the putting the Laurel on the head of one who writ such verses, will give futurity a very lively idea of the judgment and justice of those who bestowed it." Ibid. p. 417. But the well-known learning of that Noble Person, who was then Lord Chamberlain, might have screened him from this unmannerly reflection. Nor ought Mr. Oldmixon to complain so long after, that the Laurel would have better become his own brows, or any others. It were more decent to acquiesce in the opinion of the Duke of Buckingham upon this matter:

*—In rush'd Eusden, and cry'd, Who shall have it,
But I, the true Laureate, to whom the King gave it?*

80 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

She saw slow Philips creep like Tate's poor page, 105
And all the mighty Mad in Dennis rage.

REMARKS.

*Apollo beg'd pardon, and granted his claim,
But vow'd that till then he ne'er heard of his name.*

Session of Poets.

The same plea might also serve for his successor, Mr. Cibber; and is further strengthened in the following Epigram, made on that occasion:

In merry old England it once was a rule,
The King had his Poet, and also his Fool;
But now we're so frugal, I'd have you to know it,
That Cibber can serve both for Fool and for Poet.

Of Blackmore, see Book ii. Of Philips, Book i. Ver. 262. and Book iii. *prope fin.*

Nahum Tate was Poet Laureate, a cold writer, of no invention; but sometimes translated tolerably when befriended by Mr. Dryden. In his second part of *Abraham and Achitophel* are above two hundred admirable lines together of that great hand, which strongly shine thro' the insipidity of the rest. Something parallel may be observed of another author here mentioned.

VER. 106. *And all the mighty Mad*] This is by no means to be understood literally, as if Mr. Dennis were really mad, according to the Narrative of Dr. Norris, in Swift and Pope's *Miscellanies*, Vol. iii. No—it is spoken of that *Excellent and Divine Madness*, so often mentioned by Plato: that poetical rage and enthusiasm, with which Mr. D. hath, in his time, been highly possessed; and of those *extraordinary hints and motions* whereof he himself so feelingly treats in his preface to the Rem. on Pr. Arthur. [See notes on book ii. ver. 268.]

Ibid. *And all the mighty Mad in Dennis rage.*] Mr. Theobald, in the *Centor*, vol. ii N. 33. calls Mr. Dennis by the name of *Furius*. “The modern *Furius* is to be looked upon as more an object of pity, than of that

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 81

In each she marks her Image full exprest,
But chief in BAYS's monster-breeding breast;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 108. *But chief in Bays's, &c.*] In the former Edd. thus,

But chief, in Tibbald's monster-breeding breast;
Sees Gods with Dæmons in strange league ingage,
And earth, and heav'n, and hell her battles wage:

She ey'd the Bard, where supperless he sate,
And pin'd, unconscious of his rising fate;
Studious he sate, with all his books around,
Sinking from thought to thought, &c. —

Var. *Tibbald*] Author of a pamphlet intitled, *Shakespear restor'd*. During two whole years while Mr. Pope was preparing his Edition of Shakespear, he published Advertisements, requesting assistance, and promising satisfaction to any who could contribute to its greater perfection. But this Restorer, who was at that time soliciting favours of him by letters, did wholly conceal his design, till after its publication; (which he was since not ashamed to own, in a *Daily Journal* of Nov. 26, 1728.) And then an outcry was made in the Prints, that our Author had joined with the Bookseller to raise an *extravagant subscription*; in which he had no share, of which he had no knowledge, and against which he had publickly advertised in his own proposals for *Homer*. Probably that proceeding elevated *Tibbald* to the dignity he holds in this Poem, which he seems to deserve no other way better than his brethren; unless we impute it to the share he had in the Journals, cited among the *Testimonies of Authors* prefixed to this work.

REMARKS.

" which he daily provokes, laughter and contempt.
" Did we really know how much this poor man [*I wish that reflection on poverty had been spared*] " suffers by
" being contradicted, or, which is the same thing in

Bays, form'd by nature Stage and Town to bless,
And act, and be, a Coxcomb with success. 110

REMARKS.

“ effect, by hearing another praised ; we should, in
“ compassion, sometimes attend to him with a silent
“ nod, and let him go away with the triumphs of his
“ ill nature.——*Poor* *Furius* [*again*] when any of
“ his cotemporaries are spoken well of, quitting the
“ ground of the present dispute, steps back a thousand
“ years to call in the succour of the Ancients. His
“ very panegyric is spiteful, and he uses it for the same
“ reason as some Ladies do their commendation of a
“ dead beauty, who would never have had their good
“ word, but that a living one happened to be men-
“ tioned in their company. His applause is not the
“ tribute of his *Heart*, but the sacrifice of his *Re-*
“ *venge*,” &c. Indeed his pieces against our Poet are
somewhat of an angry character, and as they are now
scarce extant, a taste of his style may be satisfactory
to the curious. “ A young, squab, short, gentleman,
“ whose outward form, tho’ it should be that of a down-
“ right monkey, would not differ so much from hu-
“ man shape as his unthinking immaterial part does
“ from human understanding.—He is as stupid and as
“ venomous as a hunch-back’d toad.—A book through
“ which folly and ignorance, those brethren so lame
“ and impotent, do ridiculously took very big and
“ very dull, and strut and hobble, cheek by jowl,
“ with their arms on kimbo, being led and supported,
“ and bully-back’d by that blind Hector, Impudence.”
Reflect. on the Essay on Criticism, p. 26, 29, 30.

It would be unjust not to add his reasons for this
Fury, they are so strong and so coercive : “ I regard
“ him (saith he) as an *Enemy*, not so much to me, as
“ to my King, to my Country, to my Religion, and
“ to that Liberty which has been the sole felicity of
“ my life. A vagary of Fortune, who is sometimes
“ pleased to be frolicksome, and the epidemic *Mad-*
“ *ness* of the times have given him *Reputation*, and *Re-*
“ *putation* (as Hobbes says) is *Power*, and *that* has

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 83

Dulness with transport eyes the lively Dunce,
Remembling she herself was Pertness once.

R E M A R K S.

“ *made him dangerous.* Therefore I look on it as my
“ duty to *King George*, whose faithful subject I am ;
“ to my *Country*, of which I have appeared a constant
“ lover ; to the *Laws*, under whose protection I have
“ so long lived ; and to the *Liberty* of my *Country*,
“ more dear to me than life, of which I have now for
“ forty years been a constant assertor, &c. I look up-
“ on it as my duty, I say, to do ——— *you shall see*
“ *what* ——— to pull the lion’s skin from this little
“ Ass, which popular error has thrown round him ;
“ and to shew that this Author, who has been lately
“ so much in vogue, has neither sense in his thoughts,
“ nor English in his expressions.” DENNIS, Rem.
on Hom. Pref. p. 2, 91, &c.

Besides these public-spirited reasons, Mr. D. had a
private one ; which, by his manner of expressing it
in p. 92, appears to have been equally strong. He
was even in bodily fear of his life from the machina-
tions of the said Mr. P. “ The story (says he) is too
“ long to be told, but who would be acquainted with
“ it, may hear of it from Mr. Curl, my Bookseller.
“ —However, what my reason has suggested to me,
“ that I have with a just confidence said, in defiance
“ of his two clandestine weapons, his *Slander* and his
“ *Poison.*” Which last words of his book plainly dis-
cover Mr. D.’s suspicion was that of being *poisoned*,
in like manner as Mr. Curl had been before him : of
which fact see *A full and true account of a horrid and*
barbarous revenge, by poison, on the body of Edmund
Curl, printed in 1716, the year antecedent to that
wherein these Remarks of Mr. Dennis were published.
But what puts it beyond all question, is a passage in a
very warm treatise, in which Mr. D. was also con-
cerned, price two pence, called, *A true character of*
Mr. Pope and his writings, printed for S. Popping,
1716 ; in the tenth page whereof he is said “ to
“ have insulted people on those calamities and diseases.

84 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Now (shame to Fortune !) an ill Run at Play
Blank'd his bold visage, and a thin Third day :

R E M A R K S.

“ which he himself gave them, by administering *Poison* to them ;” and is called (p. 4.) “ a lurking, way-laying coward, and a stabber in the dark.” Which (with many other things most lively set forth in that piece) must have rendered him a terror, not to Mr. Dennis only, but to all christian people. This charitable warning only provoked our incorrigible Poet to write the following Epigram :

Should Dennis publish, you had stabb'd your Brother,
Lampoon'd your Monarch, or debauch'd your Mother;
Say, what revenge on Dennis can be had ?
Too dull for laughter, for reply too mad :
On one so poor, you cannot take the Law ;
On one so old, your Sword you scorn to draw :
Uncag'd then let the harmless monster rage,
Secure in dulness, madness, want, and age.

For the rest ; Mr. John Dennis was the son of a Sadler in London, born in 1657. He paid court to Mr. Dryden ; and having obtained some correspondence with Mr. Wycherly and Mr. Congreve, he immediately obliged the public with their Letters. He made himself known to the Government by many admirable schemes and projects ; which the Ministry, for reasons best known to themselves, constantly kept private. For his character as a writer, it is given us as follows : “ Mr. Dennis is *excellent* at Pindaric writings, *perfectly regular* in all his performances, “ and a person of *sound Learning*. That he is master “ of a great deal of *Penetration* and *Judgment*, his “ criticisms (particularly on *Prince Arthur*) do sufficiently demonstrate.” From the same account it also appears that he writ Plays “ more to get *Reputation* than *Money*.” DENNIS of himself. See Giles Jacob's Lives of Dram. Poets, p. 68, 69. compared with p. 286.

Swearing and supperless the Hero sate, 115
Blasphem'd his Gods, the Dice, and damn'd his Fate.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 109. *Bays, form'd by nature, &c.*] It is hoped the Poet here hath done full justice to his Hero's character, which it were a great mistake to imagine was wholly sunk in stupidity: he is allowed to have supported it with a wonderful mixture of Vivacity. This character is heightened according to his own desire, in a Letter he wrote to our author. "Pert and dull
"at least you might have allowed me. What! am I
"only to be dull, and dull still, and again, and for
"ever." He then solemnly appealed to his own conscience, "that he could not think himself so, nor
"believe that our Poet did; but that he spoke worse
"of him than he could possibly think; and concluded
"it must be merely to shew his *Wit*, or for some *Pro-
fit* or *Lucre* to himself." Life of C. C. chap. vii.
and Letter to Mr. P. pag. 15. 40. 53. And to shew his claim to what the Poet was so unwilling to allow him, of being *pert* as well as *dull*, he declares he will have the *last word*; which occasioned the following Epigram:

Quoth Cibber to Pope, 'Tho' in Verse you foreclose,
I'll have the last word; for by G—, I'll write prose.
Poor Colly, thy Reas'ning is none of the strongest,
For know, the last Word is the Word that lasts longest.

VER. 112. *Remembring she herself was Pertness once.*] The Poet had told us, Ver. 13. that this fair daughter of *Night* and *Chaos* was got by them in their dotage; a time of life when Parents are most apt to spoil their children by too great indulgence. It is not to be thought strange therefore, that over-much caressing should make even *Dulness* herself *pert*, especially in her youth; tho' her own natural *Alacrity* was in sinking, or towards *Gravity*. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 113. *Shame to Fortune!*] Because she usually shews favour to persons of this Character, who have a three-fold pretence to it.

86 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Then gnaw'd his pen, then dash'd it on the ground,
Sinking from thought to thought, a vast profound!
Plung'd for his sense, but found no bottom there,
Yet wrote and flounder'd on in mere despair. 120
Round him much Embryo, much Abortion lay,
Much future Ode, and abdicated Play;

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 121. *Round him much Embryo, &c.*] In the former Editions thus,

He roll'd his eyes that witness'd huge dismay,
Where yet unpawn'd much learned lumber lay;
Volumes, whose size the space exactly fill'd,
Or which fond authors were so good to gild,
Or where, by sculpture made for ever known,
The page admires new beauties not its own.
Here swells the shelf, &c. —

I M I T A T I O N S.

Var. *He roll'd his eyes that witness'd huge dismay,*
—round he throws his eyes,

That witness'd huge affliction and dismay. Milt. B. i.

The progress of a bad poet in his thoughts, being (like the progress of the Devil in Milton) through a *Chaos*, might probably suggest this imitation.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 115. *supperless the Hero sate,*] It is amazing how the sense of this hath been mistaken by all the former commentators, who most idly suppose it to imply that the Hero of the poem wanted a supper. In truth a great absurdity! Not that we are ignorant that the Hero of Homer's *Odyssey* is frequently in that circumstance, and therefore it can no way derogate from the grandeur of an Epic Poem to represent such a Hero under a calamity, to which the greatest,

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 87

Nonsense precipitate, like running Lead,
 That slip'd thro' Cracks and Zig-zags of the head;
 All that on Folly Frenzy could beget, 125
 Fruits of dull Heat, and Sooterkins of Wit,
 Next, o'er his Books his eyes began to roll,
 In pleasing memory of all he stole,
 How here he sipp'd, how there he plunder'd snug,
 And suck'd all o'er, like an industrious Bug. 130
 Here lay poor Fletcher's half-eat scenes, and here
 The frippery of crucify'd Moliere;

R E M A R K S.

not only of Critics and Poets, but of Kings and Warriors, have been subject. But much more refined, I will venture to say, is the meaning of our Author: It was to give us, obliquely, a curious precept, or, what Bosfu calls, *a disguised sentence*, that "Temperance is the life of Study." The language of poetry brings all into action; and to represent a Critic encompassed with books but without a supper, is a picture which lively expresseth how much the true Critic prefers the diet of the mind to that of the body, one of which he always castigates, and often totally neglects for the greater improvement of the other.

SCRIB.

But since the discovery of the true Hero of the poem, may we not add, that nothing was so natural, after so great a loss of Money at Dice, or of Reputation by his Play, as that the Poet should have no great stomach to eat a supper? Besides, how well has the Poet consulted his Heroic Character, in adding that he *swore* all the time?

BENTL.

VER. 131. *poor Fletcher's half-eat scenes,*] A great number of them taken out to patch up his Plays.

VER. 132. *The Frippery*] "When I had fitted up
 "an old play, it was as a good housewife will mend
 "old linen, when she has not better employment."
 Life, p. 217. octavo.

88 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

There hapless Shakespear, yet of Tibbald-fore,
 With'd he had blotted for himself before.

The rest on Out-side merit but presume, 135
 Or serve (like other Fools) to fill a room ;

REMARKS.

VER. 133. *Hapless Shakespear, &c.*] It is not to be doubted but Bays was a subscriber to Tibbald's Shakespear. He was frequently liberal this way ; and, as he tells us, " subscribed to Mr. Pope's Homer, out of " pure Generosity and Civility ; but when Mr. Pope " did so to his Nonjuror, he concluded it could be " nothing but a joke." Letter to Mr. P. p. 24.

This Tibbbald, or Theobald, published an edition of Shakespear, of which he was so proud himself as to say, in one of *Mist's Journals*, June 8. " That " to expose any Errors in it was impracticable." And in another, April 27, " That whatever care might for " the future be taken by any other Editor, he would " still give above five hundred emendations, that *shall* " escape them all."

VER. 834. *Wish'd he had blotted*] It was a ridiculous praise which the Players gave to Shakespear, " that " he never blotted a line." Ben Johnson honestly wish'd he had blotted a thousand ; and Shakespear would certainly have wished the same, if he had lived to see those alterations in his works, which, not the Actors only (and especially the daring Hero of this poem) have made on the *Stage*, but the presumptuous Critics of our days in their *Editions*.

VER. 135. *The rest on Out-side merit, &c.*] This Library is divided into three parts ; the first consists of those authors from whom he stole, and whose works he mangled ; the second, of such as fitted the shelves, or were gilded for shew, or adorned with pictures ; the third class our author calls solid learning, old Bodies of Divinity, old Commentaries, old English Printers, or old English Translations ; all very voluminous, and fit to erect altars to Dulness.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 89

Such with their shelves as due proportion hold,
 Or their fond parents drest in red and gold;
 Or where the pictures for the page atone,
 And Quarles is sav'd by Beauties not his own. 140
 Here swells the shelf with Ogilby the great;
 There, stamp'd with arms, Newcastle shines complete:
 Here all his suff'ring brotherhood retire,
 And 'scape the martyrdom of jakes and fire:

REMARKS.

VER. 141. *Ogilby the great* ;] " John Ogilby was
 " one, who, from a late initiation into literature,
 " made such a progress as might well style him the
 " prodigy of his time! sending into the world so
 " many large *Volumes*! His translations of Homer
 " and Virgil done *to the life*, and *with such excellent*
 " *sculptures*: And (what added great grace to his
 " works) he printed them all on *special good paper*,
 " and in a *very good letter*." WINSTANLY, *Lives of*
Poets.

VER. 142. *There, stamp'd with arms, Newcastle*
shines complete :] " The *Duchess of Newcastle* was one
 " who busied herself in the ravishing delights of Po-
 " etry; leaving to posterity in print three *ample Vo-*
 " *lumes* of her studious endeavours." WINSTANLY,
Ibid. Langbane reckons up *eight Folios* of her *Grace's*;
 which were usually adorned with gilded covers, and
 had her coat of arms upon them.

VER. 146. *Worthy Settle, Banks, and Broome*.] The
 Poet has mentioned these three authors in particular,
 as they are parallel to our Hero in three capacities:
 1. Settle was his Brother Laureate; only indeed upon
 half-pay, for the City instead of the Court; but
 equally famous for unintelligible flights in his poems

IMITATIONS.

VER. 140. In the former Edd.

The page admires new beauties not its own.

Miraturque novas frondes & non sua poma. Virg. Geo. ii.

90 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

A Gothic Library¹ of Greece and Rome 145
Well purg'd, and worthy Settle, Banks, and Broome.
But, high above, more solid learning shone,
The Classics of an Age that heard of none;

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 146. In the first Edit. it was,

Well purg'd, and worthy W—y, W—s, and Bl—
And in the following alter'd to Withers, Quarles, and
Blome, on which was the following note:

It was printed in the surreptitious editions, *W—ly*,
W—s, who were persons eminent for good life;
the one writ the Life of Christ in verse, the other
some valuable pieces in the lyric kind on pious sub-
jects. The line is here restored according to its ori-
ginal.

“ *George Withers* was a great pretender to poetical
“ zeal against the vices of the times, and abused the
“ greatest personages in power, which brought upon
“ him frequent Correction. The *Marshalsea* and *New-*
“ *gate* were no strangers to him.” WINSTANLY,
Quarles was as dull a writer, but an honest man:
Blome's books are remarkable for their cuts.

R E M A R K S.

on public occasions, such as Shows, Birth-days, &c.
2. Banks was his Rival in *Tragedy* (tho' more succes-
ful) in one of his Tragedies, the *Earl of Essex*, which
is yet alive: *Anna Boleyn*, the *Queen of Scots*, and
Cyrus the Great, are dead and gone. These he dress'd
in a sort of *Beggars Velvet*, or a happy Mixture of
the *thick Fustian* and *thin Prosaic*; exactly imitated in
Perolla and Isidora; *Cæsar in Egypt*, and the *Heroic*
Daughter. 3. Broome was a serving-man of Ben John-
son, who once picked up a *Comedy* from his Betters,
or from some cast scenes of his Master, not entirely
contemptible.

VER. 147. *more solid Learning*] Some have objected,
that books of this sort suit not so well the library of

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 91

There Caxton slept, with Wynkyn at his side, 149
One clasp'd in wood, and one in strong cow-hide ;
There sav'd by spice, like mummies, many a year,
Dry Bodies of Divinity appear :

R E M A R K S.

our Bays, which they imagine consisted of Novels, Plays, and obscene books ; but they are to consider, that he furnished his shelves only for ornament, and read these books no more than the *Dry Bodies of Divinity*, which, no doubt, were purchased by his father, when he designed him for the Gown. See the note on Ver. 200.

VER. 149. *Caxton*] A Printer in the time of Edw. IV. Rich. III. and Hen. VII ; Wynkyn de Wood, his successor, in that of Hen. VII and VIII. The former translated into prose Virgil's *Æneis*, as a history ; of which he speaks, in his Proeme, in a very singular manner, as of a book hardly known. " Happened
" that to my hande cam a lytyl book in frenche,
" whiche late was translated out of latyn by some noble clerke of fraunce, whiche booke is named *Eneydos* (made in latyn by that noble poete and grete clerke Vyrgylye) whiche booke I sawe over and redde therein, How after the generall destruccyon of the grete Troy, Eneas departed berynge his old fader anchises upon his sholdres, his lytyl son yolas on his hande, his wyfe with moche other people followynge, and how he shipped and departed ; wythe all thystorye of his adventures that he had er he cam to the atchievement of his conquest of ytalye, as all alonge shall be shewed in this present booke. In whiche booke I had grete playsyr, by cause of the fayr and honest termes, & wordes in frenche, whiche I neuer sawe to fore lyke, ne none so playsaunt ne so well ordred ; whiche booke as me semed sholde be moch requysite to noble men to see, as wel for the eloquence as the hystories. How wel that many hondred yerys passed was the sayd booke of Eneydos wyth other workes made and

92 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

De Lyra there a dreadful front extends,
And here the groaning shelves Philemon bends.

Of these twelve volumes, twelve of amplest size,
Redeem'd from tapers and defrauded pies, 155
Inspir'd he seizes : These an altar raise :
An hecatomb of pure unsully'd lays
That altar crowns : A folio Common-place
Founds the whole pile, of all his works the base : 160
Quartos, octavos, shape the less'ning pyre ;
A twisted Birth-day Ode completes the spire.

Then he : Great Tamer of all human art !
First in my care, and ever at my heart ;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 162. *A twisted, &c.*] In the former Edd.

And last, a little Ajax tips the spire.

Var. *a little Ajax*] in *duodecimo*, translated from Sophocles by Tibbald.

REMARKS.

“ lerned dayly in scolis, especyally in ytalye and
“ other places, whiche historye the sayd Vyrghyle made
“ in metre.” *Tibbald* quotes a rare passage from him
in *Mist's Journal of March 16, 1728*, concerning a
straunge and marvayllouse beaste called Sagittarye, which
he would have *Shakespear* to mean rather than *Teucer*,
the archer celebrated by *Homer*.

VER. 153. *Nich. de Lyra*, or Harpsfield, a very
voluminous commentator, whose works, in five vast
folios, were printed in 1472.

VER. 154. *Philemon Holland* Doctor in Physic. “ He
“ translated so many books, that a man would think he
“ had done nothing else ; infomuch that he might be
“ called Translator general of his age. The books
“ alone of his turning into English are sufficient to
“ make a Country Gentleman a complete Library.”

WINSTANLY.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 93

Dulness ! whose good old cause I yet defend, 165
 With whom my Muse began, with whom shall end ;
 E'er since Sir Fopling's Periwig was Praise,
 To the last honours of the Butt and Bays :
 O thou ! of Bus'ness the directing soul !
 To this our head like byas to the bowl, 170
 Which, as more pond'rous, made its aim more true,
 Obliquely wadling to the mark in view :

REMARKS.

VER. 167. *E'er since Sir Fopling's Periwig*] The first visible cause of the passion of the Town for our Hero was a fair flaxen full-bottom'd periwig, which, he tells us, he wore in his first play of the *Fool in Fashion*. It attracted, in a particular manner, the friendship of Coll. Brett, who wanted to purchase it. " Whatever contempt (says he) Philosophers may have for a fine periwig, my friend, who was not to despise the world but to live in it, knew very well that so material an article of dress upon the head of a man of sense, if it became him, could never fail of drawing to him a more partial Regard and Benevolence, than could possibly be hoped for in an ill-made one. This, perhaps, may soften the grave censure, which so youthful a purchase might otherwise have laid upon him. In a word, he made his attack upon this Periwig, as your young fellows generally do upon a lady of pleasure, first by a few familiar praises of her person, and then a civil enquiry into the price of it ; and we finished our bargain that

IMITATIONS.

VER. 166. *With whom my Muse began, with whom shall end.*]

A te principium, tibi desinet.—Virg. Ecl. viii.

Ἐκ Διὸς ἀρχώμεσθα, καὶ εἰς Δία λήγεις, Μῦσαι. Theoc.

Prima dicte mihi, summa dicende Camæna. Hor.

94 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

O! ever gracious to perplex'd mankind,
Still spread a healing mist before the mind;
And, lest we err by Wit's wild dancing light, 175
Secure us kindly in our native night.
Or, if to Wit a coxcomb make pretence,
Guard the sure barrier between that and Sense;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 177. *Or, if to Wit, &c.*] In the former Edd.

Ah! still o'er Britain stretch that peaceful wand,
Which lulls th' Helvetian and Batavian land;
Where rebel to thy throne if Science rise,
She does but shew her coward face, and dies:
There thy good Scholiasts with unweary'd pains
Make Horace flat, and humble Maro's strains:
Here studious I unlucky Moderns save,
Nor sleeps one Error in its father's grave,
Old puns restore, lost blunders nicely seek,
And crucify poor Shakespear once a week.
For thee supplying, in the worst of days,
Notes to dull books, and prologues to dull plays;
Not that my quill to critics was confin'd,
My verse gave ampler lessons to mankind;
So gravest precepts may successful prove,
But sad examples never fail to move.
As forc'd from wind-guns, &c.

Var. *Nor sleeps one error—old puns restore, lost blunders, &c.*] As where he [Tibbald] laboured to prove *Shakespear* guilty of terrible *Anachronisms*, or low *Conundrums*, which Time had covered; and conversant with such authors as *Caxton* and *Wynkyn*, rather than

REMARKS.

“night over a bottle.” See *Life*, octavo, p. 303. This remarkable *Periwig* usually made its entrance upon the stage in a sedan, brought in by two chairmen, with infinite approbation of the audience.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 95

Or quite unravel all the reas'ning thread,
 And hang some curious cobweb in its stead! 180
 As, forc'd from wind-guns, lead itself can fly,
 And pond'rous slugs cut swiftly thro' the sky;
 As clocks to weight their nimble motion owe,
 The wheels above urg'd by the load below:
 Me Emptiness, and Dulness could inspire, 185
 And were my Elasticity and Fire.

VARIATIONS.

in *Homer* or *Chaucer*. Nay, so far had he lost his reverence to this incomparable author, as to say in print, *He deserved to be whipt*. An insolence which nothing sure can parallel! but that of *Dennis*, who can be proved to have declared before company, that *Shakespear* was a *Rascal*. *O tempora! O mores!*

Var. *And crucify poor Shakespear once a week.*] For some time once a week or fortnight, he printed in *Mist's Journal* a single remark or poor conjecture on some word or pointing of *Shakespear*, either in his own name, or in letters to himself as from others without name. Upon these somebody made this Epigram.

" 'Tis gen'rous, Tibbald! in thee and thy brothers,
 " To help us thus to read the works of others:
 " Never for this can just returns be shown;
 " For who will help us e'er to read thy own?"

Var. *Notes to dull books, and prologues to dull plays;*] As to *Cook's Hesiod*, where sometimes a note, and sometimes even half a note, are carefully owned by him: And to *Moore's Comedy of the Rival Modes*, and other authors of the same rank: These were people who writ about the year 1726.

REMARKS.

VER. 178, 179. *Guard the sure barrier—or quite unravel, &c.*] For *Wit* or *Reasoning* are never greatly hurtful to Dulness, but when the first is founded in *Truth*, and the other in *Usefulness*. W.

96 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Some Dæmon stole my pen (forgive th' offence)
 And once betray'd me into common sense :
 Else all my Prose and Verse were much the same ;
 This prose on stilts, that Poetry fall'n lame. 190
 Did on the stage my Fops appear confin'd ?
 My life gave ampler lessons to mankind,
 Did the dead letter unsuccessful prove ?
 The brisk Example never fail'd to move.
 Yet sure had Heav'n decreed to save the State, 195
 Heav'n had decreed these works a longer date.
 Could Troy be sav'd by any single hand,
 This grey-goose weapon must have made her stand.

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 195. *Yet sure had Heav'n, &c.* In the former Edd.

Had Heav'n decreed such works a longer date,
 Heav'n had decreed to spare the Grubstreet-state.
 But see great Settle to the dust descend,
 And all thy cause and empire at an end !
 Could Troy be sav'd, &c.——

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 195. *Had heav'n decreed, &c.*]

*Me si cœlicolæ voluissent ducere vitam,
 Has mihi servassent sedes.——* Virg. Æn. ii.

VER. 197, 198. *Could Troy be sav'd—This grey-goose weapon]*

——*Si Pergama dextra
 Defendi possent, etiam hac defensa fuissent.* Virg. Ibid.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 181. *As forc'd from wind-guns, &c.*] The thought of these four verses is found in a poem of our Author's of a very early date (namely, written at fourteen years old, and soon after printed) to the author of a poem called *Succesſſo*.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 97

What can I now ? my Fletcher cast aside,
 Take up the Bible, once my better guide ? 200
 Or tread the path by vent'rous Heroes trod,
 This Box my Thunder, this right hand my God ?
 Or chair'd at White's amidst the Doctors sit,
 Teach Oaths to Gamesters, and to Nobles Wit ?

REMARKS.

VER. 199. *My Fletcher*] A familiar manner of speaking, used by modern Critics, of a favourite author. Bays might as justly speak thus of Fletcher, as a French Wit of Tully, seeing his works in his library, " Ah !
 " mon cher Ciceron ! je le connois bien ; c'est le
 " même que Marc Tulle." But he had a better title to call Fletcher *his own*, having made so free with him

VER. 200. *Take up the Bible, once my better guide ?*] When, according to his Father's intention, he had been a *Clergyman*, or (as he thinks himself) a *Bishop* of the Church of England. Hear his own words :
 " At the time that the fate of K. James, the Prince
 " of Orange, and Myself were on the anvil, Provi-
 " dence thought fit to postpone mine, till theirs were
 " determined : But had my father carried me a month
 " sooner to the University, who knows but that purer
 " fountain might have washed my Imperfections into
 " a capacity of writing, instead of Plays and annual
 " Odes, Sermons and *Pastoral Letters ?*" Apology for his Life, ch. iii.

VER. 203. *at White's amidst the Doctors*] These Doctors had a modest and upright appearance, no air of over-bearing ; but, like true Masters of Arts, were only habited in *black and white* : They were justly styled *subtiles* and *graves*, but not always *irrefrag-*

IMITATIONS.

VER. 202. *This Box my Thunder, this right hand my God.*]

Dextra mihi Deus, & telum quod missile libro.

Virgil of the Gods of Mezentius.

Or bidst thou rather Party to embrace ?
 (A friend to Party thou, and all her race ;
 'Tis the same rope at different ends they twist ;
 To Dulness Ridpath is as dear as Mist.)
 Shall I, like Curtius, desp'rate in my zeal,
 O'er head and ears plunge for the Commonweal ?
 Or rob Rome's ancient geese of all their glories,
 And cackling save the Monarchy of Tories ?

REMARKS.

biles, being sometimes examined, and, by a nice distinction, divided and laid open. SCRIBL. W.

This learned Critic is to be understood allegorically: The DOCTORS in this place mean no more than *false Dice*, a Cant phrase used amongst Gamesters. So the meaning of these four sonorous lines is only this, " Shall I play fair or foul ?"

VER. 208. *Ridpath—Mist.*] George Ridpath author of a Whig paper, called the Flying-post ; Nathaniel Mist, of a famous Tory Journal.

VER. 211. *Or rob Rome's ancient geese of all their glories,*] Relates to the well known story of the geese that saved the Capitol ; of which Virgil, *Æn.* viii.

*Atque hic auratis volitans argenteus anser
 Porticibus Gallos in limine adesse canebat.*

A passage I have always suspected. Who sees not the antithesis of *auratis* and *argenteus* to be unworthy the Virgilian majesty ? And what absurdity to say a goose sings ? *canebat*. Virgil gives a contrary character of the voice of this silly bird, in *Ecl.* ix.

— *argutos interstrepere anser olores.*

Read it, therefore, *adesse strepebat*. And why *auratis porticibus* ? does not the very verse preceding this inform us,

Romuleoque recens horrebat regia culmo.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 99

Hold—to the Minister I more incline ;
 To serve his cause, O Queen ! is serving thine.
 And see ! thy very Gazetteers give o'er, 215
 Ev'n Ralph repents, and Henley writes no more.
 What then remains ? Ourselves. Still, still remain
 Cibberian forehead, and Cibberian brain.

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 213. *Hold—to the Minister—*] In the former Edd.

Yes, to my Country I my pen consign,
 Yes, from this moment, mighty Mist ! am thine.

R E M A R K S.

Is this *batch* in one line, and *gold* in another, consistent ? I scruple not (*repugnantibus omnibus manuscriptis*) to correct it *auritis*. Horace uses the same epithet in the same sense,

— — Auritas fidibus canoris
 Ducere quercus.

And to say that *walls have ears* is common even to a proverb. SCRIBL.

VER. 212. *And cackling save the Monarchy of Tories ?*] Not out of any preference or affection to the Tories. For what Hobbes so ingenuously confesseth of himself, is true of all Party-writers whatsoever :
 “ That he defends the supreme powers, as the *Geese*
 “ by their *cackling* defended the Romans, who held
 “ the Capitol ; for they favoured them no more than
 “ the Gauls, their enemies, but were as ready to have
 “ defended the Gauls if they had been *possessed of the*
 “ *Capitol.*” Epist. Dedic. to the Leviathan. W.

VER. 215. *Gazetteers*] A band of ministerial writers, hired at the price mentioned in the note on Book ii. ver. 316. who, on the very day their patron quitted his post, laid down their paper, and declared they would never more meddle in Politics.

100 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

This brazen Brightness, to the 'Squire so dear ;
 This polish'd Hardness, that reflects the Peer : 220
 This arch Absurd, that wit and fool delights ;
 This Mess, toss'd up of Hockley-hole and Whites ;
 Where Dukes and Butchers join to wreath my crown,
 At once the Bear and Fiddle of the town.

O born in sin, and forth in folly brought ! 225
 Works damn'd, or to be damn'd! (your father's fault)

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 225. *O born in sin, &c.*] In the former Edd.

Adieu, my Children ! better thus expire
 Unstall'd, unfold ; thus glorious mount in fire,
 Fair without spot ; than greas'd by grocer's hands,
 Or shipp'd with Ward to Ape-and-monkey lands,
 Or wasting ginger, round the streets to run,
 And visit Ale-house where ye first begun.
 With that he lifted thrice the sparkling brand,
 And trice he dropp'd it, &c.——

I M I T A T I O N S.

Var. *And visit Ale-house,*] Waller on the Navy.

*Those tow'rs of Oak o'er fertile plains may go,
 And visit mountains where they once did grow.*

R E M A R K S.

VER. 218. *Cibberian forehead,*] So indeed all the MSS. read, but I make no scruple to pronounce them all wrong, the Laureate being elsewhere celebrated by our Poet for his great *Modesty*—*modest Cibber*—Read therefore, at my peril, *Cerberian forehead*. This is perfectly classical, and, what is more, *Homerical* ; the *Dog* was the ancient, as the *Bitch* is the modern symbol of impudence : (*Κυνὸς ἄμαρ' ἔχων*, says Achilles to Agamemnon) which, when in a superlative degree, may well be denominated from *Cerberus*, the *Dog*

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 101

Go, purify'd by flames ascend the sky,
My better and more christian progeny !
Unstain'd, untouch'd, and yet in maiden sheets ;
While all your smutty sisters walk the streets. 230
Ye shall not beg, like gratis-given Bland,
Sent with a pass, and vagrant thro' the land ;
Not sail with Ward to Ape-and-monkey-climes,
Where vile Mundungus trucks for viler rhymes :

REMARKS

with three beads.—But as to the latter part of the verse, *Cibberian brain*, that is certainly the genuine reading. BENTL. W.

VER. 225. *O born in sin, &c.*] This is a tender and passionate Apostrophe to his own works, which he is going to sacrifice, agreeable to the nature of man in great affliction ; and reflecting like a parent on the many miserable fates to which they would otherwise be subject.

VER. 228. *My better and more christian progeny !*] “ It may be observable, that my muse and my spouse were equally prolific ; that the one was seldom the mother of a Child, but in the same year the other made me father of a play. I think we had a dozen of each sort between us ; of both which kinds some died in their Infancy,” &c. Life of C. C. p. 217. 8vo. edit.

VER. 231. *Gratis-given Bland—Sent with a Pass,*] It was a practice so to give the Daily Gazetteer and ministerial pamphlets (in which this B. was a writer) and to send them *Post-free* to all the Towns in the kingdom.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 229 *Unstain'd, untouch'd, &c.*]

—— *Fælix Priamæia virgo !*

Iussa mori : quæ sortitus non pertulit ullos,

Nec victoris heri tetigit captiva cubile !

Nos, patria incensa, diversa per æquora vectæ, &c.

Virg. Æn. iii.

102 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Not sulphur-tipt, emblaze an ale-house fire; 235
 Not wrap up Oranges, to pelt your fire!
 O! pass more innocent, in infant state,
 To the mild Limbo of our Father Tate:
 Or peaceably forgot, at once be blest
 In Shadwell's bosom with eternal Rest! 240
 Soon to that mass of Nonsense to return,
 Where things destroy'd are swept to things unborn.
 With that, a Tear (portentous sign of Grace!)
 Stole from the Master of the sev'nfold Face:

R E M A R K S.

VER. 233.—*with Ward, to Ape-and-monkey climes,*
 “Edward Ward, a very voluminous Poet in Hudibrasitic verse, but best known by the London Spy, in prose. He has of late years kept a public house in the City, (but in a genteel way) and with his wit, humour, and good liquor (ale) afforded his guests a pleasurable entertainment, especially those of the high-church party.” JACOB, *Lives of Poets*, vol. ii. p. 225. Great numbers of his works were yearly sold into the Plantations. — Ward, in a book called *Apollo's Maggot*, declared this account to be a great falsity, protesting that his public house was not in the City, but in *Moorfields*.

VER. 238, 240. *Tate—Shadwell*] Two of his predecessors in the Laurel.

VER. 243. *With that, a Tear (portentous sign of Grace!) &c.*] It is to be observed that our Poet hath made his Hero, in imitation of Virgil's, obnoxious to the tender passions. He was indeed so given to weeping, that he tells us, when Goodman the player swore, if he did not *make a good actor, he'd be damn'd*; “the surprise of being commended by one, who had been himself so eminent on the stage, and in so positive a manner, was more than he could support. In a word (says he) it almost took away my breath, and (laugh if you please) fairly drew tears from my eyes.” P. 149. of his Life, octavo. W.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 103

And thrice he lifted high the Birth-day brand, 245
 And thrice he dropt it from his quiv'ring hand;
 Then lights the structure, with averted eyes:
 The rolling smokes involve the sacrifice.
 The op'ning clouds disclose each work by turns,
 Now flames the Cid, and now Perolla burns; 250

VARIATIONS.

VER. 250. *Now flames the Cid, &c.*] In the former Edd.

Now flames old Memnon, now Rodrigo burns,
 In one quick flash see Proserpine expire,
 And last, his own cold Æschylus takes fire,
 Then guth'd the tears, as from the Trojan's eyes
 When the last blaze, &c.

Var. *Now flames old Memnon, now Rodrigo burns,
 In one quick flash see Proserpine expire.*]

Memnon, a hero in the *Persian Princess*, very apt to take fire, as appears by these lines, with which he begins the play,

*By heav'n, it fires my frozen blood with rage,
 And makes it scald my aged trunk.*——

Rodrigo, the chief personage of the *Perfidious Brother* (a play written between *Tibbald* and a Watchmaker.) The *Rape of Proserpine*, one of the Farces of this author, in which *Ceres*, setting fire to a corn field, endangered the burning of the Play-house.

Var. *And last, his own cold Æschylus took fire.*] He had been (to use an expression of our Poet) *about Æschylus* for ten years, and had received subscriptions for the same, but then went *about* other books. The character of this tragic Poet is Fire and Boldness in a high degree, but our author supposes it very much cooled by the translation: upon sight of a specimen of which was made this Epigram,

104 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Great Cæsar roars, and hisses in the fires ;
King John in silence modestly expires :
No merit now the dear Nonjuror claims,
Moliere's old stubble in a moment flames.

V A R I A T I O N S.

“ Alas ! poor *Æschylus* ! unlucky dog !
“ Whom once a *Lobster* kill'd, and now a *Log*.”

But this is a grievous error, for *Æschylus* was not slain
by the fall of a *Lobster* on his head, but of a *Tortoise*,
teste Val. Max. l. ix. cap. 12. SCRIBL.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 250. *Now flames the Cid, &c.*] In the first
notes on the *Dunciad* it was said, that this Author was
particularly excellent at Tragedy. “ This (says he)
“ is as unjust as to say I could not dance on a Rope.”
But certain it is that he had attempted to dance on this
Rope, and fell most shamefully, having produced no
less than four Tragedies (the names of which the Po-
et preserves in these few lines) the first three of them
were fairly printed, acted, and damned ; the fourth
suppressed in fear of the like treatment.

VER. 253. *the dear Nonjuror—Moliere's old stubble*] A
Comedy threshed out of Moliere's *Tartuffe*, and so much

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 245. *And thrice he lifted high the Birth-day
brand.*] Ovid, of *Althæa* on a like occasion, burning
her offspring :

*Tum conata quater flammis imponere torrem,
Cæpta quater tenuit.*

VER. 250. *Now flames the Cid, &c.*]

— *Jam Deïphobi dedit ampla ruinam,
Vulcano superante, domus; jam proximus ardet
Ucalegon.* —

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 105

Tears gush'd again, as from pale Priam's eyes 255
When the last blaze sent Ilion to the skies.

Rouz'd by the light, old Dulness heav'd her head,
Then snatch'd a sheet of Thulè from her bed,
Sudden she flies, and whelms it o'er the pyre;
Down sink the flames, and with a hiss expire. 260

REMARKS.

the Translator's favourite, that he assures us all our author's dislike to it could only arise from *disaffection to the Government* :

*Qui meprise Cotin, n'estime point son Roi,
Et n'a, selon Cotin, ni Dieu, ni foi, ni loi.* Boil.

He assures us, that " when he had the honour to kiss
" his Majesty's hand upon presenting his dedication
" of it, he was graciously pleased, out of his Royal
" bounty, to order him two hundred pounds for it.
" And this he doubts not *grieved* Mr. P."

VÉR. 256. *When the last blaze sent Ilion to the skies.*] See Virgil, *Æn.* ii. where I would advise the reader to peruse the story of Troy's destruction, rather than in Wynkyn. But I caution him alike in both to beware of a most grievous error, that of thinking it was brought about by I know not what *Trojan Horse*; there never having been any such thing. For, first, it was not *Trojan*, being made by the *Greeks*; and, secondly, it was not a *horse*, but a *mare*. This is clear from many verses in Virgil :

——— *Uterumque armato milite complent.* ——
Inclusos utero Danaos ——

Can a horse be said *Utero gerere*? Again,

——— *Uteroque recusso,*
Insonuere cavæ ——
——— *Atque utero sonitum quater arma dedere.*

Nay, is it not expressly said

Scandit fatalis machina muros
Fæta armis ——

Her ample presence fills up all the place ;
 A veil of fogs dilates her awful face :
 Great in her charms ! as when on Shrieves and May's
 She looks, and breathes herself into their airs.
 She bids him wait her to her sacred Dome :
 Well pleas'd he enter'd, and confess'd his home. 265
 So Spirits ending their terrestrial race
 Ascend, and recognize their Native Place.

V A R I A T I O N S.

After Ver. 268. in the former Edd. followed these two lines,

Raptur'd, he gazes round the dear retreat,
 And in sweet numbers celebrates the feat.

Var. *And in sweet numbers celebrates the feat.*] He writ a poem called the *Cave of Poverty*, which concludes with a very extraordinary wish, " That some great genius, or man of distinguished merit may be starved, in order to celebrate her power, and describe her Cave." It was printed in octavo 1715.

R E M A R K S.

How is it possible the word *fata* can agree with a *horse*? And indeed can it be conceived that the chaste and virtuous Goddess *Pallas* would employ herself in forming and fashioning the Male of that species? But this shall be proved to a demonstration in our Virgil restored.

SCRIBL.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 263. *Great in her charms ! as when on Shrieves and May's*

She looks, and breathes herself into their airs.

*Alma parens confessa Deam ; qualisque videri
 Cœlicolis, Et quanta solet———* Virg. Æn. ii.

Et lætos oculis afflavit bonores. Id. Æn. i.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 107

This the Great Mother dearer held than all
The clubs of Quidnuncs, or her own Guildhall: 270
Here stood her Opium, here she nurs'd her Owls,
And here she plann'd th' Imperial seat of Fools.

Here to her Chosen all her works she shews;
Prose swell'd to verse, verse loit'ring into prose:
How random thoughts now meaning chance to find,
Now leave all memory of sense behind: 276
How Prologues into Prefaces decay,
And these to Notes are fritter'd quite away:

R E M A R K S.

VER. 253. *Thulé*] An unfinish'd poem of that name, of which one sheet was printed many years ago, by Amb. Philips, a northern author. It is an usual method of putting out a fire, to cast wet sheets upon it. Some critics have been of opinion that this sheet was of the nature of the Asbestos, which cannot be consumed by fire: But I rather think it an allegorical allusion to the coldness and heaviness of the writing.

VER. 265 *sacred Dome*:] Where he no sooner enters, but he reconnoitres the place of his original; as Plato says the spirits shall, at their entrance into the celestial regions.

VER. 269. *Great Mother*] *Magna mater*, here applied to *Dulness*. The *Quidnuncs*, a name given to the ancient members of certain political clubs, who were constantly enquiring *quid nunc*? what news?

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 269. *This the Great Mother, &c.*]

Urbs antiqua fuit——

Quam Juno fertur terris magis omnibus unam

Posthabita celuisse Samo: hic illius arma

Hic currus fuit: hic regnum Dea gentibus esse

(Si qua fata sinant) jam tum tenditque fovetque.

Virg. *Æn.* i.

How Index-learning turns no student pale,
Yet holds the eel of science by the tale : 280

How, with less reading than makes felons scape,
Less human genius than God gives an ape,
Small thanks to France, and none to Rome or Greece,
A vast; vamp'd, future, old, reviv'd, new piece,
'Twixt Plautus, Fletcher, Shakespear, and Corneille,
Can make a Cibber, Tibbald, or Ozell. 286

The Goddes then, o'er his anointed head,
With mystic words, the sacred Opium shed.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 286. *Tibbald*.] Lewis Tibbald (as pronounced) or Theobald (as written) was bred an Attorney, and son to an Attorney (says Mr. Jacob) of Sittenburn in Kent. He was author of some forgotten Plays, Translations, and other pieces. He was concerned in a paper called the Censor, and a Translation of Ovid. "There is a notorious Idiot, one hight
" Whachum, who, from an under spur-leather to the
" Law, is become an under strapper to the Play-
" house, who hath lately burlesqued the Metamor-
" phoses of Ovid by a late Translation, &c. This
" fellow is concerned in an impertinent paper called
" the Censor." DENNIS, Rem. on Pope's Hom. p. 9, 10.

Ibid. *Ozell*.] "Mr. John Ozell (if we credit Mr. Jacob) did go to school in Leicestershire, where *some-
" body* left him *something* to live on, when he shall re-
" tire from business. He was designed to be sent to
" Cambridge, in order for priesthood; but he chose
" rather to be placed in an *office of accounts*, in the Ci-
" ty, being qualified for the same by his skill in *arith-
" metic*, and writing the necessary *bands*. He has
" obliged the world with many translations of French
" Plays." JACOB, Lives of *Dram. Poets*, p. 198.

Mr. Jacob's character of Mr. Ozell seems vastly short of his merits, and he ought to have further justice done him, having since fully confuted all sarcasms on his

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 109

And lo ! her bird (a monster of a fowl,
 Something betwixt a Heideggre and Owl) 290
 Perch'd on his crown. All hail ! and hail again,
 My son : the promis'd land expects thy reign.
 Know, Eusden thirsts no more for sack or praise ;
 He sleeps among the dull of ancient days ;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 293. *Know, Eusden &c.*] In the former Edd.
 Know, Settle, cloy'd with custard and with praise,
 Is gather'd to the dull of ancient days,
 Safe where no critics damn, no duns molest,
 Where Gildon, Banks, and high-born Howard rest.
 I see a King ! who leads my chosen sons
 To lands that flow with clenches and with puns :
 Till each sam'd theatre my empire own ;
 Till Albion, as Hibernia, blest my throne !
 I see ! I see !—then rapt she spoke no more,
 God save King Tibbald ! Grubstreet alleys roar.
 So when Jove's block, &c.

REMARKS.

learning and genius, by an advertisement of Sept. 20.
 1729, in a paper called the Weekly Medley, &c.
 " As to my *learning*, this envious Wretch knew, and
 " every body knows, that the *whole bench of Bishops*,
 " not long ago, were pleased to give me a *purse of*
 " *guineas*, for discovering the erroneous translations
 " of the Common-prayer in Portuguese, Spanish,
 " French, Italian, &c. As for my *genius*, let Mr.
 " Cleland shew better verses in all Pope's works, than
 " Ozell's version of Boileau's *Lutrin*, which the late
 " Lord Hallifax was so pleased with, that he com-
 " plimented him with leave to dedicate it to him, &c.
 " &c. Let him shew better and truer Poetry in the
 " Rape of the Lock, than in Ozell's Rape of the Buc-
 " ket (*la Secchia rapita.*) And M. Toland and Mr.
 " Gildon publicly declared Ozell's translation of Ho-
 " mer to be, as it was *prior*, so likewise *superior* to P's.

110 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

Safe, where no Critics damn, no duns molest, 295
 Where wretched Withers, Ward, and Gildon rest,
 And high-born Howard, more majestic fire,
 With Fool of Quality compleats the quire.
 Thou, Cibber! thou, his Laurel shalt support,
 Folly, my son, has still a Friend at Court. 300
 Lift up your Gates, ye Princes, see him come!
 Sound, sound ye Viols, be the Cat-call dumb!
 Bring, bring the madding Bay, the drunken Vine;
 The creeping, dirty, courtly Ivy join.
 And thou! his Aid de camp, lead on my sons, 305
 Light-arm'd with Points, Antitheses, and Puns,

R E M A R K S.

“—Surely, surely, every man is free to deserve well
 “of his country!” JOHN OZBELL.

We cannot but subscribe to such reverend testimonies, as those of the *Bench of Bishops*, Mr. Toland, and Mr. Gildon.

VER. 290. *A Heideggre*] A strange bird from Switzerland, and not (as some have supposed) the name of an eminent person who was a man of parts, and, as was said of Petronius, *Arbiter Elegantiarum*.

VER. 296. *Withers*,] See note on ver. 146.

Ibid. *Gildon*] Charles Gildon, a writer of criticisms and libels of the last age, bred at St. Omer's with the Jesuits; but renouncing popery, he published Blount's books against the divinity of Christ, the Oracles of Reason, &c. He signalized himself as a Critic, having written some very bad Plays; abused Mr. P. very scandalously in an anonymous pamphlet of the Life of Mr. Wycherly, printed by Curl; in another called the New Rehearsal, printed in 1714; in a third.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 304. *The creeping, dirty, courtly Ivy join.*]

Quorum imagines lambunt, ———
Hederæ sequaces:

Perf.

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 111

Let Bawdry, Billingsgate, my daughters dear,
Support his front, and Oaths bring up the rear :
And under his, and under Archer's wing,
Gaming and Grub-street skulk behind the King. 310
O! when shall rise a Monarch all our own,
And I, a Nursing-mother, rock the throne ;
'Twixt Prince and People close the Curtain draw,
Shade him from Light, and cover him from Law ;
Fatten the Courtier, starve the learned band, 315
And suckle Armies, and dry-nurse the land :

REMARKS.

entitled, the Complete Art of English Poetry, in two volumes ; and others.

VER. 297. *Howard,*] Hon. Edward Howard, author of the British Princes, and a great number of wonderful pieces, celebrated by the late earls of Dorset and Rochester, Duke of Buckingham, Mr. Waller, &c.

VER. 309, 310.] *under Archer's wing,—Gaming, &c.*] When the Statute against Gaming was drawn up, it was represented, that the King, by ancient custom, plays at Hazard one night in the year ; and therefore a clause was inserted, with an exception as to that particular. Under this pretence, the Groom-porter had a room appropriated to Gaming all the summer the Court was at Kensington, which his Majesty accidentally being acquainted of, with a just indignation prohibited. It is reported the same practice is yet continued wherever the Court resides, and the Hazard Table there open to all the professed Gamesters in town.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 311. *O! when shall rise a monarch, &c.*] Boileau, Lutrin, Chant. II.

*Helas ! qu'est devenu cet tems, cet heureux tems,
Ou les Rois s'honoroient du nom de Faineans : &c.*

112 THE DUNCIAD, Book I.

Till Senates nod to Lullabies divine,
And all be sleep, as at an Ode of thine.

She ceas'd. Then swells the Chapel-royal throat:
God save King Cibber! mounts in ev'ry note. 320
Familiar White's, God save King Colley! cries;
God save King Colley! Drury-lane replies:
To Needham's quick the voice triumphal rode,
But pious Needham dropt the name of God;
Back to the Devil the last echoes roll, 325
And Coll! each Butcher roars at Hockley-hole.

So when Jove's block descended from on high
(As sings thy great forefather Ogilby)

R E M A R K S.

Greatest and justest SOV'REIGN! *know you this?*
Alas! no more than Thames' calm head can know
Whose meads his arms drown, or whose corn o'erflow.

Donne to Queen Eliz.

VER. 319. *Chapel-royal*] The voices and instruments used in the service of the Chapel-royal being also employed in the performance of the Birth-day and New-year Odes.

VER. 324. *But pious Needham*] A Matron of great fame, and very religious in her way; whose constant prayer it was, that she might "get enough by her" "profession to leave it off in time, and make her" "peace with God." But her fate was not so happy; for being convicted and set in the pillory, she was (to the lasting shame of all her great Friends and Votaries) so ill used by the populace, that it put an end to her days.

VER. 325. *Back to the Devil*] The Devil Tavern in Fleet-street, where these Odes are usually rehearsed before they are performed at Court. Upon which a Wit of those times made this Epigram,

When Laureates make Odes, do you ask of what sort?

Do you ask if they're good, or are evil?

You may judge—From the Devil they come to the
And go from the Court to the Devil. (Court,

Book I. THE DUNCIAD. 113

Loud thunder to its bottom shook the bog, 329
And the hoarse nation croak'd, God save King Log!

REMARKS.

VER. 328.—*Ogilby*)—*God save King Log!*] See *Ogilby's Æsop's Fables*, where, in the History of the Frogs and their King, this excellent hemistich is to be found.

Our Author manifests here, and elsewhere, a prodigious tenderness for the *bad writers*. We see he selects the only good passage, perhaps, in all that ever *Ogilby* writ; which shews, how candid and patient a reader he must have been. What can be more kind and affectionate than these words in the preface to his Poems, where he labours to call up all our humanity and forgiveness toward these unlucky men, by the most moderate representation of their case that has ever been given by any author? “Much may be said
“to extenuate the fault of bad poets: What we call
“a *genius* is hard to be distinguished, by a man himself, from a prevalent inclination: And if it be never so great, he can at first distinguish it no other
“way than by that strong propensity which renders
“him the more liable to be mistaken. He has no
“other method but to make the experiment by writing, and so appealing to the judgment of others:
“And if he happens to write ill (which is certainly
“no sin in itself) he is immediately made the object of
“ridicule! I wish we had the humanity to reflect,
“that even the worst authors might endeavour to
“please us, and, in that endeavour, deserve something at our hands. We have no cause to quarrel
“with them, but for their obstinacy in persisting, and
“even that may admit of alleviating circumstances:
“For their particular friends may be either ignorant,
“or unsincere; and the rest of the world too well
“bred to shock them with a truth which generally
“their booksellers are the first that inform them of.”

But how much all indulgence is lost upon these people may appear from the just reflection made on their

114 THE DUNCIAD. Book I.

constant conduct and constant fate, in the following Epigram :

" Ye little Wits, that gleam'd a while,
" When Pope vouchsaf'd a ray,
" Alas ! depriv'd of his kind smile,
" How soon ye fade away !

" To compass Phœbus' car about,
" Thus empty vapours rise ;
" Each lends his cloud to put him out,
" That rear'd him to the skies.

" Alas ! those skies are not your sphere ;
" There He shall ever burn :
" Weep, weep, and fall ! for Earth ye were,
" And must to Earth return,

The End of the FIRST BOOK.

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D U N C I A D :

BOOK THE SECOND.

A R G U M E N T.

The King being proclaimed, the solemnity is graced with public Games, and sports of various kinds; not instituted by the Hero, as by Æneas in Virgil, but for greater honour by the Goddess in person (in like manner as the games Pythia, Isthmia, &c. were anciently said to be ordained by the Gods, and as Thetis herself appearing, according to Homer, Odyss. xxiv. proposed the prizes in honour of her son Achilles.) Hither flock the Poets and Critics, attended, as is but just, with their Patrons and Booksellers. The Goddess is first pleased, for her disport, to propose games to the Booksellers, and setteth up the Phantom of a Poet, which they contend to overtake. The Races described, with their divers accidents. Next, the game for a Poetess. Then follow the Exercises for the Poets, of tickling, vociferating, diving: The first holds forth the arts and practices of Dedicators, the second of

Disputants and fustian Poets, the third of profound, dark, and dirty Party-writers. Lastly, for the Critics, the Goddess proposes (with great propriety) an Exercise, not of their parts, but their patience, in hearing the works of two voluminous Authors, one in verse, and the other in prose, deliberately read without sleeping: The various effects of which, with the several degrees and manners of their operation, are here set forth; till the whole number, not of Critics only, but of Spectators, actors, and all present, fall asleep; which naturally and necessarily ends the games.

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B O O K II.

HIGH on a gorgeous seat, that far out-shone
 Henley's gilt tub, or Fleckno's Irish throne,

R E M A R K S.

TWO things there are, upon the supposition of which the very basis of all verbal criticism is founded and supported: The first, that an Author could never fail to use the *best word* on every occasion; the second, that a Critic cannot chuse but know *which that is*. This being granted, whenever any word doth not fully content us, we take upon us to conclude, first, that the author could *never have used it*; and, secondly, that he must have used *that very one*, which we conjecture in its stead.

We cannot, therefore, enough admire the learned Scriblerus for his alteration of the text in the two last verses of the preceeding book, which in all the former editions stood thus:

*Hoarse thunder to its bottom shook the bog,
 And the loud nation croak'd, God save King Log!*

He has, with great judgment, transposed these two epithets, putting *hoarse* to the nation, and *loud* to the thunder: And this being evidently the true reading, he vouchsaf'd not so much as to mention the former; for which assertion of the just right of a Critic, he

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 1. *High on a gorgeous seat*] Parody of Milton, Book iii.

*High on a throne of royal state, that far
 Outshone the wealth of Ormus and of Ind,
 Or where the gorgeous East with richest hand
 Show'rs on her Kings Barbaric pearl and gold,
 Satan exalted fate.*

Or that where on her Curls the Public pours,
 All-bounteous, fragrant Grains and Golden show'rs,
 Great Cibber fate : The proud Parnassian sneer, 5
 The conscious simper, and the jealous leer,
 Mix on his look : All eyes direct their rays
 On him, and crowds turn Coxcombs as they gaze.
 His Peers shine round him with reflected grace,
 New edge their dulness, and new bronze their face, 10
 So from the Sun's broad beams in shallow urns,
 Heav'n's twinkling Sparks draw light, and point their
 horns.

REMARKS.

merits the acknowledgment of all sound Commentators.

VER. 2. *Henley's gilt tub,*] The pulpit of a Dissenter is usually called a Tub; but that of Mr. Orator Henley was covered with velvet, and adorned with gold. He had also a fair altar, and over it this extraordinary inscription, *The Primitive Eucharist*. See the history of this person, Book iii.

Ibid. or Fleckno's Irish throne,] Richard Fleckno was an Irish priest, but had laid aside (as himself expressed it) the mechanic part of priesthood. He printed some plays, poems, letters, and travels. I doubt not our Author took occasion to mention him in respect to the poem of Mr. Dryden, to which this bears some resemblance, though of a character more different from it than that of the *Æneid* from the *Iliad*, or the *Lutrin* of Boileau from the *Defait de Bouts rimées* of Sarazin.

It may be just worth mentioning, that the Eminence, from whence the ancient Sophists entertained their auditors, was called by the pompous name of a throne; ἐπὶ θρόνον τινὸς ὑψηλὰ μάλα σοφιστικῶς καὶ σοφιστικῶς. The- mistius, Orat. i.

VER. 3. *Or that where on her Curls the Public pours,*] Edmund Curl stood in the pillory at Charing-cross, in March 1727-8. "This (saith Edmund Curl) is a false

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 119

Not with more glee, by hands pontific crown'd,
With scarlet hats wide-waving circled round,
Rome in her Capitol saw Querno sit, 15
Thron'd on seven hills, the Antichrist of wit.

And now the Queen, to glad her sons, proclaims,
By herald Hawkers, high heroic Games.
They summon all her Race : An endless band
Pours forth, and leaves unpeopled half the land. 20
A motley mixture ! in long wigs, in bags,
In silks, in crapes, in Garters, and in Rags,

R E M A R K S.

" assertion—I had indeed the corporal punishment
" of what the Gentlemen of the long robe are pleased
" jocosely to call *mounting the Rostrum* for one hour ;
" but that scene of action was not in the month of
" *March*, but in *February*." [Curliad, 12^{mo} p. 19.]
And of *the History of his being lost in a Blanket*, he
saith, " Here, *Scriblerus* ! thou leeseest in what thou
" assestest concerning the blanket ; it was not a *blan-*
" *ket*, but a *rug*." Much in the same manner Mr.
Cibber remonstrated, that his Brothers, at Bedlam,
mentioned Book i. were not *Brazen*, but *Blocks* ; yet
our Author let it pass unaltered, as a trifle that no
way altered the relationship.

We should think (gentle Reader) that we but ill
performed our part, if we corrected not as well *our*
own Errors now, as formerly those of the *Printer*.
Since what moved us to this Work was solely the Love
of *Truth*, not in the least any *Vain-glory*, or *Desire*
to contend with *Great Authors*. And further, our Mis-
takes, we conceive, will the rather be pardoned, as
scarce possible to be avoided in writing of such Per-
sons and Works as do ever shun the Light. However,
that we may not any way soften or extenuate the same,
we give them thee in the very Words of our Antago-
nists ; not defending, but retracting them from our
heart, and craving excuse of the Parties offended :

120 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

From drawing-rooms, from colleges, from garrets,
On horse, on foot, in hacks, and gilded chariots:
All who true Dunces in her cause appear'd, 25
And all who knew those Dunces to reward.

Amid that area wide they took their stand,
Where the tall may-pole once o'erlook'd the Strand,
But now (so ANNE and Piety ordain)
A Church collects the saints of Drury-lane. 30

With Authors, Stationers obey'd the call,
(The field of glory is a field for all.)
Glory, and gain, th' industrious tribe provoke;
And gentle Dulness ever loves a joke.

R E M A R K S.

For surely in this Work, it hath been above all things
our desire, *to provoke no Man.* SCRIBL.

VER. 15. *Rome in her Capitol saw Querno sit,*] Camillo Querno was of Apulia, who, hearing the great Encouragement which Leo X. gave to poets, travelled to Rome with a harp in his hand, and sung to it twenty thousand verses of a poem called Alexias. He was introduced *as a Buffoon*, to Leo, and promoted to the honour of the *Laurel*; a jest which the Court of Rome and the Pope himself entered into so far, as to cause him to ride on an elephant to the Capitol, and to hold a solemn festival on his coronation; at which it is recorded the Poet himself was so transported as to *weep for joy*². He was ever after a constant frequenter of the Pope's table, drank abundantly, and poured forth verses without number. PAULUS JOVIUS, Elog. Vir. doct. chap. lxxxii. Some idea of his poetry is given by Fam. Strada, in his prolusions.

VER. 34. *And gentle Dulness ever loves a joke.*] This species of mirth called a *joke*, arising from a *Mal-entendu*, may be well supposed to be the delight of Dulness. W.

² See Life of C. C. chap vi. p. 149.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 121

A Poet's form she plac'd before their eyes, 35
 And bade the nimblest racer seize the prize;
 No meagre, muse-rid mope, adust and thin,
 In a dun night-gown of his own loose skin;
 But such a bulk as no twelve bards could raise,
 Twelve starv'ling bards of these degen'rate days. 40
 All as a partridge plump, full-fed, and fair,
 She form'd this image of well-body'd air;

REMARKS.

VER. 44. *A brain of feathers, and a heart of lead;*
 i. e. *A trifling head, and a contracted heart,*
 as the Poet, Book iv. describes the *accomplished* Sons
 of Dulness; of whom this is only an *Image* or Scare-
 crow, and so stuffed out with these correspondent ma-
 terials. SCRIBL. W.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 35. *A Poet's form she plac'd before their eyes,*
 This is what Juno does to deceive Turnus, *Æn. x.*

*Tum Dea nube cava tenuem sine viribus umbram
 In faciem Æneæ (visu mirabile monstrum!)
 Dardaniis ornat telis, clypeumque jubaſque
 Divini assimilat capitis——*

—— *Dat inania verba*

Dat sine mente sonum——

The reader will observe how exactly some of these
 verses suit with their allegorical application here to a
 Plagiary: There seems to me a great propriety in this
 Episode, where such an one is imaged by a phantom
 that deludes the grasp of the expecting Bookseller.

VER. 39. *But such a bulk as no twelve bards could
 raise,*

Vix illud lecti bis sex——

Qualia hunc hominum producit corpora tellus.

Virg. Æn. xii.

With pert flat eyes she window'd well its head ;
 A brain of feathers, and a heart of lead ;
 And empty words she gave, and sounding strain, 45
 But senseless, lifeless ! idol void and vain !
 Never was dash'd out, at one lucky hit,
 A fool, so just a copy of a wit ;
 So like, that critics said, and courtiers swore,
 A Wit it was, and call'd the phantom More. 50

REMARKS.

VER. 47. *Never was dash'd out at one lucky hit.*] Our Author here seems willing to give some account of the possibility of *Dulness* making a Wit (which could be done no other way than by *chance*.) The fiction is the more reconciled to probability, by the known story of Apelles, who, being at a loss to express the foam of Alexander's horse, dashed his pencil in despair at the picture, and happened to do it by that fortunate stroke.

VER. 50. *and call'd the phantom More.*] CURL, in his key to the Dunciad, affirmed this to be James-More Smith, esq. and it is probable (considering what is said of him in the *Testimonies*) that some might fancy our author obliged to represent this gentleman as a plagiarist, or to pass for one himself. His case indeed was like that of a man I have heard of, who, as he was sitting in company, perceived his next neighbour had stolen his handkerchief. " Sir, (said the thief, finding himself detected) do not expose me, I did it for mere want ; be so good but to take it privately out of my pocket again, and say nothing." The honest man did so, but the other cry'd out, " See, gentlemen, what a thief we have among us ! look, he is stealing my handkerchief !"

Some time before, he had borrowed of Dr. Arbuthnot a paper called an Historico-physical account of the *South-Sea* ; and of Mr. Pope the Memoirs of a Paris Clerk, which for two years he kept, and read to the Rev. Dr. Young,—F. Billers, Esq. and many others as his own. Being applied to for them, he pretended

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 123

All gaze with ardour : Some a poet's name,
Others a sword-knot and lac'd suit inflame.
But lofty Lintot in the circle rose:
" This prize is mine ; who tempt it are my foes ;

REMARKS.

they were lost ; but there happening to be another copy of the latter, it came out in *Swift* and *Pope's* Miscellanies. Upon this, it seems he was so far mistaken as to confess his proceeding by an endeavour to hide it : unguardedly printing (in the *Daily Journal* of Apr. 3, 1728.) " That the contempt which he and others " had for those pieces" (which only himself had shown, and handed about as his own) " occasioned their being lost, and for that cause only not returned." A fact, of which as none but he could be conscious, none but he could be the publisher of it. The plagiarisms of this person gave occasion to the following epigram :

" More always smiles whenever he recites ;
" He smiles (you think) approving what he writes.
" And yet in this no vanity is shown ;
" A modest man may like what's not his own.

This young Gentleman's whole misfortune was too inordinate a passion to be thought a Wit. Here is a very strong instance attested by Mr. *Savage* son of the late earl *Rivers* ; who having shewn some verses of his in manuscript to Mr. *Moore*, wherein Mr. *Pope* was called *first of the tuneful train*, Mr. *Moore* the next morning sent to Mr. *Savage*, to desire him to give these verses another turn, to wit, " That *Pope* might now " be the *first*, because *Moore* had left him unrival'd in " turning his stile to Comedy." This was during the rehearsal of the *Rival Modes*, his first and only work ; the Town condemn'd it in the action, but he printed it in 1726-7, with this modest Motto,

Hic castus, artemque repono.

"With me began this genius, and shall end." 55
He spoke: and who with Lintot shall contend?

Fear held them mute. Alone, untaught to fear,
Stood dauntless Curl; "Behold that rival here!"

REMARKS.

The smaller pieces which we have heard attributed to this author, are, An Epigram on the Bridge at *Blenheim*, by Dr. *Evans*: *Cosmelia*, by Mr. *Pit*, Mr. *Jones*, &c. The Mock-marriage of a mad Divine, with a Cl— for a Parson, by Dr. *W*. The Saw-pit, a Simile, by a *Friend*. Certain physical works on Sir *James Baker*; and some unown'd Letters, Advertisements, and Epigrams against our author in the *Daily Journal*.

Notwithstanding what is here collected of the Person imagined by *Curl* to be meant in this place, we cannot be of that opinion; since our Poet had certainly no need of vindicating half a dozen verses to himself, which every reader had done for him; since the name itself is not spell'd *Moore*, but *More*; and lastly, since the learned *Scriblerus* has so well proved the contrary

VER. 50. *the phantom More*.] It appears from hence, that this is not the name of a real person, but fictitious. *More* from *μῆγε*, *stultus*, *μῆγιστος stultitia*, to represent the folly of a plagiarist. Thus Erasmus, *Admonuit me Mori cognomen tibi, quod tam ad Moris vocabulum accedit quam es ipse a re alienus*. Dedication of *Moris* Encomium to Sir Tho. More; the farewell of which may be our Author's to his plagiarist, *Vale, More! & moriam tuam gnawiter defende*. Adieu, More! and be sure strongly to defend thy own folly. SCRIBL.

VER. 53. *But lofty Lintot*] We enter here upon the episode of the Booksellers: Persons, whose names being more known and famous in the learned world than those of the Authors in this poem do therefore need less explanation. The action of Mr. Lintot here imitates that of Dares in Virgil, rising just in this manner to lay hold on a *Bull*. This eminent Bookseller printed the *Rival Modes* before-mentioned.

"The race by vigour, not by vaunts is won ;
 " So take the hindmost Hell, (he said) and run." 60

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VER. 58. *Stood dauntless Curl ;*] We come now to a character of much respect, that of Mr. Edmund Curl. As a plain repetition of great actions is the best praise of them, we shall only say of this eminent man, that he carried the Trade many lengths beyond what it ever before had arrived at; and that he was the envy and admiration of all his profession. He possessed himself of a command over all authors whatever; he caused them to write what he pleased; they could not call their very *Names* their own. He was not only famous among these; he was taken notice of by the *State*, the *Church*, and the *Law*; and received particular marks of distinction from each.

It will be owned that he is here introduced with all possible dignity: He speaks like the intrepid Diomed; he runs like the swift-footed Achilles; if he falls, 'tis like the beloved Nisus; and what (Homer makes to be the chief of all praises) he is *favoured of the Gods*; he says but three words, and his prayer is heard; a Goddess conveys it to the seat of Jupiter: Though he loses the prize, he gains the victory; the great Mother herself comforts him, she inspires him with expedients, she honours him with an immortal present (such as Achilles receives from Thetis, and Æneas from Venus) at once instructive and prophetic: After this he is unrivalled and triumphant,

The tribute our Author here pays him is a grateful return for several unmerited obligations: Many weighty animadversions on the public affairs, and many excellent and diverting pieces on private persons,

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VER. 60. *So take the hindmost, Hell,]*

Occupet extremum scabies; mibi turpe relinqui est.
 Hor. de Arte.

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Swift as a bard the bailiff leaves behind,
 He left huge Lintot, and out-strip'd the wind.
 As when a dab-chick waddles thro' the copse
 On feet and wings, and flies, and wades, and hops;
 So lab'ring on, with shoulders, hands, and head, 65
 Wide as a wind-mill all his figure spread,
 With arms expanded Bernard rows his state,
 And left-legg'd Jacob seems to emulate.
 Full in the middle way there stood a lake,
 Which Curl's Corinna chanc'd that morn to make : 70

IMITATIONS.

VER. 61, &c. Something like this in Homer, II. x.
 Ver. 220 of Diomed. Two different manners of the
 same author in his similes are also imitated in the two
 following ; the first, of the Bailiff, is short, unadorned,
 and as the Critics well know from *familiar life* ; the
 second, of the Water-fowl, more extended, picturesque,
 and from *rural life*. The 59th verse is likewise a liter-
 al translation of one in Homer.

VER. 64, 65. *On feet and wings, and flies, and
 wades, and hops ;
 So lab'ring on, with shoulders, hands, and head,]*

——— *So eagerly the Fiend,
 O'er bog, o'er steep, thro' streight, rough, dense, or rare,
 With head, bands, wings, or feet pursues his way,
 And swims, or sinks, or wades, or creeps, or flies.*

Milton, Book ii.

VER. 67, 68. *With arms expanded, Bernard rows
 his state,
 And left-legg'd Jacob seems to emulate.]*

Milton, of the motion of the Swan,

——— *rows
 His state with oary feet.*

And Dryden, of another's, — *With two left legs* —

(Such was her wont, at early dawn to drop
 Her evening cates before his neighbour's shop,)
 Here fortun'd Curl to slide; loud shout the band;
 And Bernard! Bernard! rings thro' all the Strand.
 Obscene with filth the miscreant lies bewray'd, 75
 Fall'n in the plash his wickedness had laid:

REMARKS.

has he given to his name. If ever he owed two verses to any other, he owed Mr. Curl some thousands. He was every day extending his fame, and enlarging his Writings: Witness innumerable instances; but it shall suffice only to mention the *Court Poems*, which he meant to publish as the work of the true writer, a Lady of quality; but being first threatened, and afterwards punished for it by Mr. Pope, he generously transferred it from *her* to *him*, and ever since printed it in his name. The single time that he ever spoke to C. was on that affair; and to that happy incident he owed all the favours since received from him: So true is the saying of Dr. Sydenham, "that any one shall be, at some time or other, the better or the worse, for having but *seen or spoken* to a good or bad man."

VER. 70. *Curl's Corinna*] This name, it seems, was taken by one Mrs. T——, who procured some private letters of Mr. Pope, while almost a boy, to Mr. Crom-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 73. *Here fortun'd Curl to slide;*]

*Labitur infelix, cæsis ut forte juvencis
 Fusus humum viridesque super madefecerat herbas.
 Concidit, immundoque fimo, sacroque cruore.*

Virg. *Æn.* v. of Nisus.

VER. 74. *And Bernard! Bernard!]*

—Ut littus, Hyla, Hyla omne sonaret. Virg. *Ecl.* vi.

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Then first (if Poets aught of truth declare)

The caitiff Vaticide conceiv'd a pray'r.

Hear, Jove ! whose name my bards and I adore,
As much at least as any God's, or more ; 80
And him and his if more devotion warms,
Down with the Bible, up with the Pope's Arms.

A place there is, betwixt air, earth, and seas,
Where, from Ambrosia, Jove retires for ease.

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well, and sold them without the consent of either of those Gentlemen to Curl, who printed them in 12mo. 1727. He discovered her to be the publisher, in his Key, p. 11. We only take this opportunity of mentioning the manner in which those letters got abroad, which the author was ashamed of as very trivial things, full not only of levities, but of wrong judgments of men and books, and only excusable from the youth and inexperience of the writer.

VER. 75. *Obscene with filth, &c.*] Though this incident may seem too low and base for the dignity of an Epic poem, the learned very well know it to be but a copy of Homer and Virgil ; the very words *obscure* and *simus* are used by them, though our Poet (in compliance to modern nicety) has remarkably enriched and coloured his language, as well as raised the versification, in this Episode, and in the following one of Eliza. Mr. Dryden in *Mac-Fleckno* has not scrupled to mention the *Morning-Toast*, at which the fishes bite in the Thames, *Pissing Alley*, *Relicks of the Bum*, &c, but our Author is more grave, and (as a fine writer says of Virgil in his Georgics) *tosses about his Dung with an air of Majesty*. If we consider that the ex-

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 83. *A place there is, betwixt air, earth, and seas,*

*Orbe locus medio est, inter terrasque, fretumque,
Cælestesque plagas——* Ovid. Met. xii.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 129

There in his seat two spacious vents appear, 85
 On this he sits, to that he leans his ear,
 And hears the various vows of fond mankind ;
 Some beg an eastern, some a western wind :
 All vain petitions, mounting to the sky,
 With reams abundant this abode supply ; 90
 Amus'd he reads, and then returns the bills
 Sign'd with that Ichor which from Gods distils.

In office here fair Cloacina stands,
 And ministers to Jove with purest hands.
 Forth from the heap she pick'd her Vor'ry's pray'r, 95
 And plac'd it next him, a distinction rare !
 Oft had the Goddess heard her servants call,
 From her black grottos near the Temple-wall,
 List'ning delighted to the jest unclean
 Of link-boys vile, and watermen obscene ; 100
 Where as he fish'd her nether realms for Wit,
 She oft had favour'd him, and favours yet.

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exercises of his *Authors* could with justice be no higher than *tickling, chattering, braying, or diving*, it was no easy matter to invent such games as were proportioned to the meaner degree of *Booksellers*. In Homer and Virgil, Ajax and Nisus, the persons drawn in this plight, are *Heroes* ; whereas here they are such with whom it had been great impropriety to have joined any but vile ideas ; besides the natural connection there is between *Libellers* and common Nufances. Nevertheless I have heard our Author own, that this part of his Poem was (as it frequently happens) what cost him most trouble, and pleased him least ; but that he hoped it was excusable, since levelled at such as understand no delicate satire : Thus the politest men are sometimes obliged to *swear*, when they happen to have to do with porters and oyster-wenches.

VER. 82. *Down with the Bible, up with the Pope's.*

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Renew'd by ordure's sympathetic force,
And oil'd with magic juices for the course,
Vig'rous he rises ; from th' effluvia strong 105
Imbibes new life, and scours and stinks along ;
Re-passes Lintot, vindicates the race
Nor heeds the brown dishonours of his face.

And now the victor stretch'd his eager hand
Where the tall Nothing stood, or seem'd to stand ;
A shapeless shade, it melted from his sight, 111
Like forms in clouds, or visions of the night.
To seize his papers, Curl, was next thy care ;
His papers light fly diverse, tost in air ;
Songs, sonnets, epigrams the winds uplift, 115
And whisk 'em back to Evans, Young, and Swift,

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Arms.] The Bible, Curl's sign, the Cross-keys, Lintot's.

VER. 83. See Lucian's Icaro-Menippus, where this fiction is more extended.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 108. *Nor heeds the brown dishonours of his face.*]

——— *faciem ostentabat, & udo*
Turpia membra fimo——— Virg. *Æn.* v.

VER. 111. *A shapeless shade, &c.*]

——— *Effugit imago*
Par tevibus ventis, volucrique simillima somno.
Virg. *Æn.* vi.

VER. 114. *His papers light fly diverse, tost in air ;*]

Virgil *Æn.* vi. of the Sibyl's leaves,

Carmina———
turbata volent rapidis ludibria ventis.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 131

Th' embroider'd suit at least he deem'd his prey ;
That suit an unpaid taylor snatch'd away.

No rag, no scrap, of all the beau, or wit,
That once so flutter'd, and that once so writ. 120

Heav'n rings with laughter : Of the laughter vain,
Dulness, good Queen, repeats the jest again.

Three wicked imps of her own Grubstreet choir,

She deck'd like Congreve, Addison, and Prior ;

Mears, Warner, Wilkins run : delusive thought ! 125

Beval, Bond, Besaleel, the varlets caught.

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VER. 92. Alludes to Homer, Illiad v.

— ῥέε δ' ἀμείβοτον αἷμα θόλοιο,
Ἰκλὲ οἷος ὡς τὲ ῥέει μακάρισσι θεοῖσιν.

*A stream of neck'rous humour issuing flow'd,
Sanguine, such as celestial sp'rits may bleed.* Milton.

VER. 93. *Cloacina,*] The Roman Goddess of the
common-sewers.

VER. 101. *Where as he fish'd &c.*] See the preface
to Swift's and Pope's Miscellanies.

VER. 104. *As oil'd with magic juices*] Alluding to
the opinion that there are ointments used by witches
to enable them to fly in the air, &c.

VER. 116. *Evans, Young, and Swift.*] Some of
those persons, whose writings, epigrams, or jests he
had owned. See Note on Ver. 50.

VER. 118. *an unpaid taylor*] This line has been loud-
ly complained of in *Mist*, June 8. Dedic. to Sawney,
and others, as a most inhuman satire on the *poverty* of
Poets: But it is thought our Author would be acquit-
ted by a jury of *Taylors*. To me this instance seems
unluckily chosen ; if it be a satire on any body, it
must be on a bad *paymaster*, since the person to whom
they have here applied it was a man of fortune. Not
but poets may well be jealous of so great a prerogative
as *non-payment* ; whch Mr. Dennis so far asserts, as
boldly to pronounce, that “ if Homer himself was
“ not in debt, it was because no body would trust

132. THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Curl stretches after Gay, but Gay is gone,
He grasps an empty Joseph for a John :
So Proteus, hunted in a nobler shape,
Became, when seiz'd, a puppy, or an ape. 130

To him the Goddess : Son ! thy grief lay down,
And turn this whole illusion on the town :
As the sage dame, experienc'd in her trade,
By names of Toasts retails each batter'd jade ;
(Whence hapless Monsieur much complains at Paris,
Of wrongs from Dutcheffes and Lady Maries.) 136

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“ him ” Pref. to Rem. on the Rape of the Lock,
p. 15.

VER. 124. *Like Congreve, Addison, and Prior ;*
These authors being such whose names will reach posterity, we shall not give any account of them, but proceed to those of whom it is necessary.—Besaleel Morris was author of some satires on the translators of Homer, with many other things printed in ‘news-papers’—“ Bond writ a satire against Mr. P.—Capt. “ Breval was author of the Confederates, an ingenious “ dramatic performance, to expose Mr. P. Mr Gay, “ Dr. Arb. and some ladies of quality.” says CURL, Key, p. 11

VER. 125. *Mears, Warner, Wilkins*] Booksellers, and Printers of much anonymous stuff.

VER. 126. *Breval, Bond, Besaleel,*] I foresee it will be objected from this line, that we were in an error in our assertion on Ver. 50. of this book, that More was a fictitious name, since these persons are equally represented by the poet as phantoms. So at first sight it may seem ; but be not deceived, reader ; these also are not real persons. ’Tis true, Curl declares Breval, a captain, author of a piece called *The Confederates* ; but the same Curl first said it was written by Joseph Gay : Is his second assertion to be credited any more than his first ? He likewise affirms Bond to be one who writ a satire on our Poet : But where is such a satire

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 133

Be thine, my stationer! this magic gift;
Cook shall be Prior, and Concanen, Swift;
So shall each hostile name become our own,
And we too boast our Garth and Addison.

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to be found? where was such a writer ever heard of?
As for Besaleel, it carries forgery in the very name;
nor is it, as the others are, a surname. Thou may'st
depend upon it, no such authors ever lived; all phan-
toms. SCRIBL.

VER. 128. *Joseph Gay*, a fictitious name put by Curl
before several pamphlets, which made them pass with
many for Mr. Gay's.

VER. 132. *And turn this whole illusion on the town:*]
It was a common practice of this bookseller to publish
vile pieces of obscure hands under the names of emi-
nent authors.

VER. 137. — *this magic gift*] In verity (saith
Scriblerus) a very bungling trick. How much better
might our worthy Brethren of Grubstreet be taught
(as in many things they have already been) by the
modern masters of Polemics? who, when they make
free with their neighbours, seize upon their *good works*
rather than their *good name*; as knowing that those
will produce a *name* of their own.

VER. 138. *Cook shall be Prior,*] The man here spe-
cified writ a thing called *The Battle of the Poets*, in
which Philips and Warton were the Heroes, and Swift
and Pope utterly routed. He also published some ma-
levolent things in the *British*, *London*, and *Daily*
Journals; and at the same time wrote letters to Mr.
Pope, protesting his innocence. His chief work was
a translation of Hesiod, to which Theobald writ notes
and half notes, which he carefully owned.

VER. 138. *and Concanen, Swift:*] In the first edi-
tion of this poem there were only asterisks in this place,
but the names were since inserted, merely to fill up
the verse, and give ease to the ear of the reader.

134 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

With that she gave him (piteous of his case,
Yet smiling at his rueful length of face)

R E M A R K S.

VER. 140. *And we too boast our Garth and Addison.*] Nothing is more remarkable than our author's love of praising good writers. He has in this very poem celebrated Mr. Locke, Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Barrow, Dr. Atterbury, Mr. Dryden, Mr. Congreve, Dr. Garth, Mr. Addison; in a word, almost every man of his time that deserved it; even Cibber himself (presuming him to be author of the Careless Husband.) It was very difficult to have that pleasure in a poem on this subject, yet he has found means to insert their panegyric, and has made even Dulness out of her own mouth pronounce it. It must have been particularly agreeable to him to celebrate Dr. Garth; both as his constant friend, and as he was his predecessor in this kind of satire. The Dispensary attacked the whole Body of Apothecaries, a much more useful one undoubtedly than that of the bad poets; if in truth this can be a body, of which no two members ever agreed. It also did, what Mr. Theobald says is unpardonable, drew in *parts of private character*, and introduced *persons independent of his subject*. Much more would Boileau have incurred his censure, who left all subjects whatever, on all occasions, to fall upon the bad poets (which, it is to be feared, would have been more immediately his concern.) But certainly, next to commending good writers, the greatest service to learning is to expose the bad, who can only that way be made of any use to it. This truth is very well set

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 141, 142 — *piteous of his case,
Yet smiling at his rueful length of face*]

—— *Risit pater optimus illi.* ——

Me liceat casum misereri infantis amici ——

Sic fatus, tergum Gætuli immane leonis, &c.

Virg. *Æn.* v.

A shaggy Tap'stry, worthy to be spread,
On Codrus' old, or Dunton's modern bed;

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forth in these lines addressed to our author :

- “ The craven Rook, and pert Jackdaw,
“ (Tho' neither birds of moral kind)
“ Yet serve, if hang'd, or stuff'd with straw,
“ To shew us which way blows the wind.
- “ Thus dirty knaves, or chatt'ring fools,
“ Strung up by dozens in thy lay,
“ Teach more by half than Dennis' rules,
“ And point instruction ev'ry way.
- “ With Ægypt's art thy pen may strive :
“ One potent drop let this but shed,
“ And ev'ry Rogue, that stunk alive,
“ Becomes a precious Mummy dead.”

VER. 142. *rueful length of face*)] “ The decrepid
“ person or figure of a man are no reflections upon
“ his *Genius* : An honest mind will love and esteem a
“ *man of worth*, though he be deformed or poor.
“ Yet the author of the Dunciad hath libelled a person
“ for his *rueful length of face* !” *Mist's Journal*, June
8. This *Genius* and *man of worth*, whom an honest
mind should *love*, is Mr. Curl. True it is, he stood
in the Pillory, an incident which will lengthen the
face of any man, though it were ever so comely,
therefore is no reflection on the natural beauty of Mr.
Curl. But as to reflections on any man's face, or fi-
gure, Mr. Dennis saith excellently ; “ Natural defor-
“ mity comes not by our fault ; 'tis often occasioned
“ by calamities and diseases, which a man can no
“ more help than a monster can his deformity. There
“ is no one misfortune, and no one disease, but what
“ all the rest of mankind are subject to.—But the de-
“ formity of this *Author* is visible, present, lasting,

136 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Instructive work! whose wry-mouth'd portraiture 145
Display'd the fates her confessors endure.

R E M A R K S.

“unalterable, and peculiar to himself. 'Tis the mark
“of God and Nature upon him, to give us warning
“that we should hold no society with him, as a crea-
“ture not of our original, nor of our species: and
“they who have refused to take this warning which
“God and Nature have given them, and have, in
“spite of it, by a senseless presumption, ventured to
“be familiar with him, have severely suffered, &c.
“'Tis certain his original is not from Adam, but from
“the Devil,” &c. DENNIS, Character of Mr. P. oc-
tavo, 1716.

Admirably it is observed by Mr. Dennis against Mr. Law, p. 33. “That the language of Billingsgate can
“never be the language of charity, nor consequently
“of Christianity.” I should else be tempted to use
the language of a Critic; for what is more provoking
to a commentator, than to behold his author thus por-
trayed? Yet I consider it really hurts not *him*;
whereas to call some others dull, might do them pre-
judice with a world too apt to believe it: Therefore,
though Mr. D. may call another a *little ass* or a *young*
toad, far be it from us to call him a *toothless lion* or an
old serpent. Indeed, had I written these notes (as
was once my intent) in the learned language, I might
have given him the appellations of *balatro*, *calceatum*
caput, *scurra in triviis*, being phrases in good esteem
and frequent usage among the best learned: But in
our mother tongue, were I to tax any gentleman of
the Dunciad, surely it should be in words not to the
vulgar intelligible; whereby christian charity, decen-
cy, and good accord among authors, might be pre-
served.

SCRIBL.

The good Scriblerus here, as on all occasions, emi-
nently shews his humanity. But it was far otherwise
with the gentlemen of the Dunciad, whose scurrilities
were always personal, and of that nature which pro-
voked every honest man but Mr. Pope, yet never to

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 137

Earleſs on high, ſtood unabash'd De Foe,
And Tutchin flagrant from the ſcourge below.
There Ridpath, Roper, cudgell'd might ye view,
The very worſted ſtill look black and blue. 150

REMARKS.

be lamented, ſince they occaſioned the following amiable Verſes :

- " While Malice, Pope, denies thy page
" Its own celeftial fire ;
- " While Critics, and while Bards in rage,
" Admiring, won't admire.
- " While wayward pens thy worth aſſail,
" And envious tongues decry ;
- " Theſe times tho' many a Friend bewail,
" Theſe times bewail not I.
- " But when the world's loud praiſe is thine,
" And ſpleen no more ſhall blame,
- " When with thy Homer thou ſhalt ſhine
" In one eſtabliſh'd fame :
- " When none ſhall rail, and ev'ry lay,
" Devote a wreath to thee ;
- " That day (for come it will) that day
" Shall I lament to ſee."

VER. 143. *A ſhaggy Tap'ſtry*] A ſorry kind of Tapeſtry frequent in old inns, made of worſted or ſome coarſer ſtuff, like that which is ſpoken of by Donne—*Faces as frightful as theirs who whip Chriſt in old hangings.* The imagery woven in it alludes to the mantle of Cloanthus, in *Æn.* v.

VER. 144. *On Codrus' old, or Dunton's modern bed ;*] Of Codrus the poet's bed, ſee Juvenal, deſcribing his poverty very copiouſly. Sat. iii. Ver. 103, &c.

138 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Himself among the story'd chiefs he spies,
As, from the blanket, high in air he flies,
And oh! (he cry'd) what street, what lane but knows
Our purgings, pumpings, blankettings, and blows?
In ev'ry loom our labours shall be seen, 155
And the fresh vomit run for ever green!

REMARKS.

Letæus erat Codrus, &c.

*Codrus had but one bed, so short to boot,
That his short Wife's short legs hung dangling out.
His cupboard's head fix earthen pitchers grac'd,
Beneath them was his trusty tankard plac'd;
And to support this noble plate there lay
A bending Chiron, cast from honest clay.
His few Greek books a rotten chest contain'd,
Whose covers much of mouldiness complain'd,
Where mice and rats devour'd poetic bread,
And on heroic verse luxuriously were fed.
'Tis true poor Codrus nothing had to boast,
And yet poor Codrus all that nothing lost. Dryden.*

But Mr. Concannen, in his dedication of the letters, advertisements, &c. to the author of the Dunciad, assures us, "that Juvenal never satirized the Poverty of Codrus."

IMITATIONS.

VER. 151. *Himself among the story'd chiefs he spies,*

*Se quoque principibus permixtum agnovit Achivis—
Constitit, & lacrymans: Quis jam locus, inquit, Achate!
Quæ regio in terris nostri non plena laboris?*

Virg. *Æn. i.*

VER. 156. *And the fresh vomit run for ever green!*
A parody on these lines of a late noble author:

*His bleeding arm had furnish'd all their rooms,
And run for ever purple in the looms.*

See in the circle next, Eliza plac'd,
Two babes of love close clinging to her waist;

R E M A R K S.

John Dunton was a broken bookseller, and abusive scribler; he writ Neck or Nothing, a violent satire on some ministers of state; a libel on the Duke of Devonshire and the Bishop of Peterborough, &c.

VER. 148. *And Tutchin flagrant from the scourge]* John Tutchin, author of some vile verses, and of a weekly paper called the Observator: He was sentenced to be whipped through several towns in the west of England, upon which he petitioned King James II. to be hanged. When that prince died in exile, he wrote an invective against his memory, occasioned by some humane elegies on his death. He lived to the time of Queen Anne.

VER. 149. *There Ridpath, Roper,]* Authors of the Flying-post and Post-boy, two scandalous papers on different sides, for which they equally and alternately deserved to be cudgelled, and were so.

VER. 151. *Himself among the story'd chiefs he spies,]* The history of Curl's being tossed in a blanket, and whipped by the scholars of Westminster, is well known. Of his purging and vomiting, see A full and true account of a horrid Revenge on the body of Edm. Curl, &c. in Swift and Pope's Miscell.

VER. 157. *See in the circle next, Eliza plac'd;]* In this game is exposed, in the most contemptuous manner, the profligate licentiousness of those shameless scriblers (for the most part of that sex, which ought least to be capable of such malice or impudence) who, in libellous Memoirs and Novels, reveal the faults or misfortunes of both sexes, to the ruin of public fame,

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 158. *Two babes of love close clinging to her waist;*

Cressa genus, Pholoë, geminique sub ubere nati.

Virg. Æn. v.

Fair as before her works she stands confess'd,
 In flow'rs and pearls by bounteous Kirkall dress'd. 160
 The Goddess then: "Who best can send on high
 The salient spout, far-streaming to the sky;

REMARKS.

or disturbance of private happiness. Our good Poet (by the whole cast of his work being obliged not to take off the irony) where he could not shew his indignation, hath shewn his contempt, as much as possible; having here drawn as vile a picture as could be represented in the colours of Epic poesy. SCRIBL.

Ibid. *Eliza Haywood*; this woman was authoress of those most scandalous books called the Court of Carimania, and the new Utopia. For the *two babes of love*, see CURL, Key. p. 22. But whatever reflection he is pleased to throw upon this lady, surely it was what from him she little deserved, who had celebrated Curl'd undertakings for *Reformation of manners*, and declared herself "to be so perfectly acquainted with
 "the *sweetness of his disposition*, and that *tenderness*
 "with which he considered the errors of his fellow
 "creatures; that, tho' she should find the *little in-*
 "advertencies of her own life recorded in his papers,
 "she was certain it would be done in such a manner
 "as she could not but approve." Mrs. HAYWOOD, Hist. of Clar. printed in the Female Dunciad, p. 18.

VER. 160. *Kirkall*, the name of an Engraver. Some of this Lady's works were printed in four volumes in 12mo, with her picture thus dressed up before them.

VER. 167. *Osborne, Thomas*] A bookseller in Gray's-inn, very well qualified by his impudence to act this part; and therefore placed here instead of a less deserving Predecessor. This man published advertisements for a year together, pretending to sell Mr. Pope's subscription books of Homer's Iliad at half the price: Of which books he had none, but cut to the size of them (which was Quarto) the common books in folio, without Copper-plates, on a worse pa-

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Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 141

" His be yon Juno of majestic size,
 " With cow-like udders, and with ox-like eyes.
 " This China Jordan let the chief o'ercome 165
 " Replenish, not ingloriously, at home.
 Osborne and Curl accept the glorious strife,
 (Tho' this his Son dissuades, and that his Wife.)

R E M A R K S.

per, and never above half the value.

Upon this Advertisement the Gazetteer harangued thus, July 6, 1739. " How melancholy must it be
 " to a Writer to be so unhappy as to see his works
 " hawked for sale in a manner so fatal to his fame!
 " How, with Honour to yourself, and Justice to your
 " Subscribers, can this be done? What an Ingratitude
 " to be charged on the *Only honest Poet* that lived in
 " 1738! and than whom *Virtue* has not had a *shriller*
 " *Trumpeter* for many ages! that you were once ge-
 " nerally admired and esteemed can be denied by none;
 " but that you and your works are now despised, is
 " verified by *this fact*:" which being utterly false,

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 163. ———yon Juno———
 With cow-like udders, and with ox-like eyes.]

In allusion to Homer's Βούνης κόρνη "Horn.

VER. 165. *This China Jordan*]

Tertius Argolica hac galea contentus.abito.

Virg. Æn. vi.

In the games of Homer, Il. xxiii. there are set together as prizes a Lady and a Kettle, as in this place Mrs. Haywood and a Jordan. But there the preference in value is given to the Kettle, at which Mad. Dacier is justly displeased. Mrs. H. is here treated with distinction, and acknowledged to be the more valuable of the two.

142 THE DUNCIAD. Book II

One on his manly confidence relies,
 One on his vigour and superior size,
 First Osborne lean'd against his letter'd post;
 It rose, and labour'd to a curve at most.
 So Jove's bright bow displays its wat'ry round,
 (Sure sign that no spectator shall be drown'd)
 A second effort brought but new disgrace,
 The wild Meander wash'd the Artist's face:

REMARKS.

did not indeed much humble the Author, but drew
 this just chastisement on the bookseller.

VER. 183, *Thro' half the heav'ns he pours th' exalted
 urn;*] In a manuscript Dunciad (where are some mar-
 ginal corrections of some gentlemen some time de-
 ceased) I have found another reading of these lines
 thus,

*And lifts his urn, thro' half the heav'ns to strow,
 His rapid waters in their passage glow.*

IMITATIONS.

VER. 169, 170. *One on his manly confidence relies,
 One on his vigour]*

*Ille——melior motu, fretusque juvena;
 Hic membris & mole valens.* Virg. *Æn.*

VER. 173, 174. *So Jove's bright bow——
 (Sure sign——*

The words of Homer, of the Rain-bow, in *Iliad* xi

—— ἄς τε Κρονίων

Ἐν νέφει σήπτε, τίς τις μέγαν ἄνθρωπον.

*Que le fils de Saturn a fondez dans les nées, pour être
 dans tout les âges une signe à tous les mortels.* Dacier.

Thus the small jett, which hasty hands unlock,
 Spirts in the gard'ner's eyes who turns the cock.
 Not so from shameless Curl; impetuous spread
 The stream, and smoking flourish'd o'er his head. 180
 So (fam'd like thee for turbulence and horns)
 Eridanus his humble fountain scorns;
 Thro' half the heav'ns he pours th' exalted urn,
 His rapid waters in their passage burn.

REMARKS.

This I cannot but think the right: For first, though the difference between *burn* and *glow* may seem not very material to others, to me I confess the latter has an elegance, a *je ne sçay quoy*, which is much easier to be conceived than explained. Secondly, every reader of our Poet must have observed, how frequently he uses this word *glow* in other parts of his work: To instance only in his Homer:

(1.) Iliad ix. ver. 726.—*With one resentment glows.*

IMITATIONS.

VER. 181, 182. *So (fam'd like thee for turbulence
 Eridanus] (and horns)*

Virgil mentions these two qualifications of Eridanus,
 Georg. iv.

*Et gemina auratus taurino cornua vultu,
 Eridanus, quo non alius per pinguia culta
 In mare purpureum violentior influit amnis.*

The poets fabled of this river Eridanus, that it flowed through the skies. Denham, Cooper's Hill:

*Heav'n her Eridanus no more shall boast,
 Whose fame in thine, like lesser currents lost;
 Thy nobler stream shall visit Jove's abodes,
 To shine among the stars, and bathe the Gods.*

144 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Swift as it mounts, all follow with their eyes : 185
Still happy Impudence obtains the prize.

Thou triumph'st, Victor of the high-wrought day,
And the pleas'd dame, soft smiling, lead'st away.

R E M A R K S.

(2.) Iliad xi. ver. 626.—*There the battle glows.*

(3.) Ibid. ver. 958.—*The closing flesh that instant
ceas'd to glow.*

(4.) Iliad xii. ver. 45.—*Encompass'd Hector glows.*

(5.) Ibid. ver. 475.—*His beating breast with gen-
erous ardour glows.*

(6.) Iliad xviii. ver. 591.—*Another part glow'd with
refulgent arms.*

(7.) Ibid. ver. 654.—*And curl'd on silver props
in order glow.*

I am afraid of growing too luxuriant in examples, or I could stretch this catalogue to a great extent; but these are enough to prove his fondness for this *beautiful word*, which, therefore, let *all future editions* replace here.

I am aware, after all, that *burn* is the proper word to convey an idea of what was said to be Mr. Curl's condition at this time: But from that very reason I infer the direct contrary. For surely every *lover of our author* will conclude he had more *humanity* than to insult a man on such a misfortune or calamity, which could never befall him purely by his *own fault*, but from an unhappy communication with another. This Note is half Mr. THEOBALD'S, half SCRIBL.

VER. 187. *The high-wrought day,*] Some affirm, this was originally *well p—st day*; but the Poet's decency would not suffer it.

Here the learned Scriblerus manifests great anger; he exclaims against all such *Conjectural Emendations* in this manner: "Let it suffice, O Pallas! that every noble
" Ancient, Greek or Roman, hath suffered the imperti-
" nent correction of every Dutch, German, and Swiss
" Schoolmaster! Let our English at least escape, whose
" intrinsic is scarce of marble so solid, as not to be im-

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 145

Osborne, thro' perfect modesty o'ercome,
Crown'd with the Jordan, walks contented home.

But now for Authors nobler palms remain ; 191

Room for my Lord ! three jockeys in his train ;

Six huntsmen with a shout precede his chair :

He grins, and looks broad nonsense with a stare,

His Honour's meaning Dulness thus exprest, 195

" He wins this Patron who can tickle best."

He chinks his purse, and takes his seat of State :

With ready quills the Dedicators wait ;

Now at his head the dext'rous task commence,

And, instant, fancy feels th' imputed sense ; 200

Now gentle touches wanton o'er his face,

He struts Adonis, and affects grimace :

Rolli the feather to his ear conveys,

Then his nice taste directs our Operas :

REMARKS.

" paired or soiled by such rude and dirty hands. Suffer
" them to call their works their own, and after death
" at least to find rest and sanctuary from Critics !
" When these men have ceased to rail, let them not
" begin to do worse, to comment ! Let them not con-
" jecture into nonsense, correct out of all correctness,
" and restore into obscurity and confusion. Miserable
" fate ! which can befall only the sprightliest wits that
" have written, and will befall them only from such
" dull ones as could never write !"

VER. 203. *Paolo Antonio Rolli*, an Italian Poet, and
writer of many Operas in that language, which, partly
by the help of his genius, prevailed in England near
twenty years. He taught Italian to some fine Gentle-
men, who affected to direct the Operas.

VER. 205. *Bentley his mouth, &c.*] Not spoken of the
famous Dr. Richard Bentley, but of one Tho. Bentley,
small critic, who aped his uncle in a little *Horace*.
The great one was intended to be dedicated to the Lord

Vol. V.

G

146 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Bentley his mouth with classic flatt'ry opes,
And the puff'd orator bursts out in tropes.

205

REMARKS.

Halifax, but (on a change of the Ministry) was given to the Earl of Oxford; for which reason the little one was dedicated to his son the Lord Harley. A taste of his *Classic Elocution* may be seen in his following Panegyric on the Peace of Utrecht. *Cupimus Patrem tuum, fulgentissimum illud Orbis Anglicani jubar, adorare. O ingens Reipublicæ nostræ columen! O fortunatam tanto Heroe Britanniam! Illi tali tantoque viro DEUM per Omnia adfuisse, manumque ejus & mentem direxisse, CERTISSIMUM EST. Hujus enim Unius ferme opera, æquissimis & perhonorificis conditionibus, diuturnæ, heu nimium! bello, finem impositum videmus. O Diem æterna memoria dignissimam! qua terrores Patriæ omnes excidit, Pacemque diu exoptatam toti fere Europæ restituit, ille Populi Anglicani Amor, Harleius.*

Thus critically (that is, verbally) translated.

“ Thy Father, that most refulgent star of the Anglican Orb, we much desire to adore! Oh mighty
“ Column of our Republick! O Britain, fortunate in
“ such an Hero! That to such and so great a Man
“ GOD was ever present, in every thing, and all along
“ directed both his hand and his heart, is a Most Absolute
“ Certainty! For it is in a manner by the operation
“ of this Man alone, that we behold a War
“ (alas! how much too long a one!) brought at length
“ to an end, on the most just and most honourable Conditions.
“ Oh Day eternally to be memorated! wherein
“ in All the Terrors of his Country were ended, and
“ a PEACE (long wish'd for by almost all Europe) was
“ restored by HARLEY, the Love and Delight of the
“ People of England.”

But that this Gentleman can write in a different style, may be seen in a letter he printed to Mr. Pope wherein several Noble Lords are treated in a most extraordinary language, particularly the Lord Bolingbroke abused for that very PEACE which he here makes

You ha

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 147

But Welsted most the poet's healing balm
Strives to extract from his soft, giving palm;
Unlucky Welsted! thy unfeeling master,
The more thou ticklest, gripes his fist the faster. 210

VARIATIONS.

VER. 207. In the first Ed.

But Oldmixon the Poet's healing balm, &c.

REMARKS.

the *single work* of the Earl of Oxford, directed by
God Almighty.

VER. 207. *Welsted*] Leonard Welsted, author of the
Triumvirate, or a Letter in verse from Palæmon to
Cælia at Bath, which was meant for a satire on Mr. P.
and some of his friends about the year 1718. He writ
other things which we cannot remember. Smedley,
in his Metamorphosis of Scriblerus, mentions one, the
Hymn of a Gentleman to his Creator: And there was
another in praise either of a Cellar, or a Garret. L.
W. characterized in the treatise *Περὶ Βάδου*, or the Art
of Sinking, as a Didapper, and after as an Eel, is said
to be this person, by Dennis, Daily Journal of May
11, 1728. He was also characterized under another
animal, a Mole, by the author of the ensuing Simile,
which was handed about at the same time:

- " Dear Welsted, mark, in dirty hole,
- " That painful animal, a Mole:
- " Above ground never born to grow;
- " What mighty stir it keeps below?
- " To make a Mole-hill all this strife!
- " It digs, pokes, undermines for life.
- " How proud a little dirt to spread:
- " Conscious of nothing o'er its head!
- " 'Till, lab'ring on for want of eyes,
- " It blunders into light—and dies."

You have him again in Book iii. Ver. 169.

While thus each hand promotes the pleasing pain,
 And quick sensations skip from vein to vein ;
 A youth unknown to Phœbus, in despair,
 Puts his last refuge all in heav'n and pray'r.
 What force have pious vows ? The Queen of Love
 His sister sends, her vot'ress, from above. 216

As, taught by Venus, Paris learnt the heart
 To touch Achilles' only tender part ;
 Secure, thro' her, the noble prize to carry,
 He marches off his Grace's Secretary. 220

Now turn to different sports (the Goddess cries)
 And learn, my sons, the wond'rous pow'r of noise.
 To move, to raise, to ravish ev'ry heart,
 With Shakespear's nature, or with Johnson's art,
 Let others aim : 'Tis yours to shake the soul 225
 With Thunder rumbling from the mustard-bowl,

REMARKS.

VER. 213. *A youth unknown to Phœbus, &c.* The satire of this Episode, being levelled at the base flatteries of authors to worthless wealth or greatness, concludes here with an excellent lesson to such men: That altho' their pens and praises were as exquisite as they conceit of themselves, yet (even in their own mercenary views) a creature unlettered, who serveth the passions, or pimpeth to the pleasures of such vain braggart, puffed Nobility, shall with those patrons be

IMITATIONS:

VER. 223, 225. *To move, to raise, &c.*
Let others aim : 'Tis yours to shake, &c.]

*Excudent alii spirantia mollius æra,
 Credo equidem, vivos ducent de marmore vultus, &c.*

*Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento,
 Hæ tibi erunt artes* —

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 149

With horns and trumpets now to madness swell,
Now sink in sorrows with a tolling bell ;
Such happy arts attention can command,
When fancy flags, and sense is at a stand. 230

Improve we these Three Cat-calls be the bribe
Of him, whose chatt'ring shames the monkey-tribe :
And his this Drum, whose hoarse heroic base
Drowns the loud clarion of the braying As.

Now thousand tongues are heard in one loud din :
The monkey-mimics rush discordant in ; 236
'Twas chatt'ring, grinning, mouthing, jabb'ring all,
And Noise and Norton, Brangling and Breval,
Dennis and Dissonance, and captious Art,
And Snip-snap short, and Interruption smart, 240
And Demonstration thin, and Theses thick,
And Major, Minor, and Conclusion quick.

REMARKS.

much more inward, and of them much higher rewarded.

SCRIBL.

VER. 226. *With Thunder rumbling from the mustard bowl.*] The old way of making Thunder and Mustard were the same ; but since, it is more advantageously performed by troughs of wood with stops in them. Whether Mr. Dennis was the inventor of that improvement, I know not ; but it is certain, that being once at a Tragedy of a new author, he fell into a great passion at hearing some, and cried, " 'Sdeath ! that is my Thunder."

VER. 228.—*With a tolling bell ;*] A mechanical help to the Pathetic, not unuseful to the modern writers of Tragedy.

VER. 231. *Three Cat-calls*] Certain musical instruments used by one sort of Critics to confound the Poets of the Theatre.

VER. 238. *Norton,*] See ver. 417.—*J. Durant Breval,* author of a very extraordinary book of Travels,

150 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Hold (cry'd the Queen) a Cat-call each shall win;
 Equal your merits ! equal is your din !
 But that this well-disputed game may end, 245
 Sound forth, my Brayers, and the welkin rend.

As when the long-ear'd milky mothers wait
 At some sick miser's triple bolted gate,
 For their defrauded, absent foals they make
 A moan so loud, that all the guild awake ; 250
 Sore sighs sir Gilbert, starting at the bray,
 From dreams of millions, and three groats to pay.
 So swells each wind-pipe ; As intones to As,
 Harmonic twang ! of leather, horn, and brass ;
 Such as from lab'ring lungs th' Enthusiast blows, 255
 High Sound, attemper'd to the vocal nose ;
 Or such as bellow from the deep Divine ;
 There, Webster, peal'd thy voice, and Whitfield !
 thine.

R E M A R K S.

and some Poems. See before, Note on ver. 126.

VER. 258. *Webster—and Whitfield*] The one the writer of a news-paper called the Weekly Miscellany, the other a Field-preacher. This thought the only means of advancing Religion was by the New-birth of spiritual madness : That, by the old death of fire and faggot : And therefore they agreed in this, though in no other earthly thing, to abuse all the sober Clergy.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 243. *A Cat-call each shall win ; &c.]*

*Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites,
 Et vitula tu dignus, & hic.* Virg. Ecl. iii.

VER. 247. *As when the, &c.]* A Simile with a long tail, in the manner of Homer.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 151

But far o'er all, sonorous Blackmore's strain ;
Walls, steeples, skies, bray back to him again. 260
In Tot'nham fields, the brethren, with amaze,
Prick all their ears up, and forget to graze ;

R E M A R K S.

From the small success of these two extraordinary persons, we may learn how little hurtful *Bigotry* and *Enthusiasm* are, while the Civil Magistrate prudently forbears to lend his power to the one, in order to the employing it against the other. W.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 260. *bray back to him again.*] A figure of speech taken from Virgil :

Et vox assensu nemorum ingeminata remugit.

Georg. iii.

*He hears his num'rous herds low o'er the plain,
While neighb'ring hills low back to them again.*

Cowley.

The poet here celebrated, Sir R. B. delighted much in the word *bray*, which he endeavoured to ennoble by applying it to the sound of *Armour, War, &c.* In imitation of him, and strengthened by his authority, our Author has here admitted it into heroic poetry.

VER. 226. *Prick all their ears up, and forget to graze ;]*

Immemor barbarum quos est mirata juventa.

Virg. Ecl. viii.

The progress of the sound from place to place, and the scenery here of the bordering regions, Tottenham-fields, Chancery-lane, the Thames, Westminster-hall, and Hungerford-stairs, are imitated from Virgil, Æn. vii. on the sounding the horn of Alecto :

*Audiit et Triviæ longe lacus, audiit amnis
Sulphurea Nar albus aqua, fontesque Velini, &c.*

Long Chanc'ry-lane retentive rolls the sound,
 And courts to courts return it round and round ;
 Thames wafts it thence to Rufus' roaring hall, 265
 And Hungerford re-echoes bawl for bawl.
 All hail him victor in both gifts of song,
 Who sings so loudly, and who sings so long.

REMARKS.

VER. 263. *Long Chanc'ry-lane*] The place where the offices of Chancery are kept. The long detention of Clients in that Court, and the difficulty of getting out, is humorously allegorized in these lines.

VER. 268. *Who sings so loudly, and who sings so long.*] A just character of Sir Richard Blackmore knight, who (as Mr. Dryden expresseth it)

Writ to the rumbling of his coach's wheels.

and whose indefatigable Muse produced no less than six Epic poems: Prince and King Arthur, twenty books; Eliza, ten; Alfred, twelve; the Redeemer, six; besides Job, in folio; the whole book of Psalms; the Creation, ~~seven books~~; Nature of Man, three books; and many more. 'Tis in this sense he is styled afterwards the *everlasting Blackmore*. Notwithstanding all which, Mr. Gildon seems assured, "that this
 "admirable author did not think himself upon the
 "same foot with Homer." Comp. Art of Poetry, vol. i. p. 108.

But how different is the judgment of the author of Characters of the times? p. 25, who says, "Sir
 "Richard Blackmore is unfortunate in happening to
 "mistake his proper talents; and that he has not for
 "many years been *so much as named*, or even *thought*
 "of among writers." Even Mr. Dennis differs greatly from his friend Mr. Gildon: "Blackmore's *Action*
 "(saith he) has neither unity, nor integrity, nor morality, nor universality; and consequently he can
 "have no *Fable*, and no *Heroic Poem*: His Narration
 "is neither probable, delightful, nor wonderful; his
 "characters have none of the necessary qualifications

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 153

This labour past, by Bridewell all descend,
(As morning-pray'r and flagellation end) 270

R E M A R K S.

"the things contained in his Narration are neither in their own nature delightful, nor numerous enough, nor rightly disposed, nor surprising, nor pathetic." Nay, he proceeds so far as to say Sir Richard has *no Genius*; first laying it down, that "*Genius is caused by a furious joy and pride of soul, on the conception of an extraordinary Hint. Many Men (says he) have their Hints, without these emotions of fury and pride of soul, because they want fire enough to agitate their spirits; and those we call cold writers. Others who have a great deal of fire, but have not excellent organs, feel the forementioned motions, without the extraordinary hints; and these we call fustian writers. But he declares that Sir Richard had neither the Hints, nor the Motions.*"
Remarks on Pr. Arth. octavo, 1696. Preface.

This gentleman in his first works abused the character of Mr. Dryden; and in his last of Mr. Pope, accused him in very high and sober terms of profaneness and immorality (Essay on Polite Writing, vol. ii. p. 270.) on a mere report from Edm. Curl, that he was author of a Travestie on the first Psalm. Mr. Dennis took up the same report, but with the addition of what Sir Richard had neglected, an *Argument to prove it*; which being very curious, we shall here transcribe. "*It was he who burlesqued the Psalm of David. It is apparent to me that Psalm was burlesqued by a Popish rhymester. Let rhyming persons who have been brought up Protestants be otherwise what they will, let them be rakes, let them be scoundrels, let them be Atheists, yet education has made an invincible impression on them in behalf of the sacred writings. But a Popish rhymester has been brought up with a contempt for these sacred writings; now shew me another Popish rhymester but he.*" This manner of argumentation is usual with Mr. Dennis; he has employed the same against Sir Richard.

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To where Fleet-ditch with disemboгуing streams
Rolls the large tribute of dead dogs to Thames,
The King of dykes! than whom no sluice of mud
With deeper fable blots the silver flobd.

" Here strip, my children! here at once leap in, 275

" Here prove who best can dash thro' thick and thin.

R E M A R K S.

himself in a like charge of *Impiety* and *Irreligion*.

" All Mr. Blackmore's celestial Machines, as they
" cannot be defended so much as by common recei-
" ved opinion, so are they directly contrary to the
" doctrine of the church of England; for the visible
" descent of an Angel must be a miracle. Now it is
" the doctrine of the church of England that mira-
" cles had ceased a long time before Prince Arthur
" came into the world. Now if the doctrine of the
" church of England be true, as we are obliged to
" believe, then are all the celestial machines in Prince
" Arthur unsufferable, as wanting not only human
" but divine probability. But if the machines are
" sufferable, that is, if they have so much as divine
" probability, then it follows of necessity, that the
" doctrine of the church is false. So I leave it to
" every impartial Clergyman to consider." &c. Pre-
face to the Remarks on Prince Arthur.

VER 270. (*As morning pray'r and flagellation end*)
It is between eleven and twelve in the morning, after
church service, that the criminals are whipt in Bride-
well.—This is to mark punctually the *time* of the day:
Homer does it by the circumstance of the Judges rising
from court, or of the Labourer's dinner; our author
by one very proper both to the *Persons* and the *Scene*

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 273. *The King of dykes! &c.*]

Fluviorum rex Eridanus,

—quo non alius, per pinguia culta,

In mare purpureum violentior influit amnis. Virg.

- " And who the most in love of dirt excel,
 " Or dark dexterity of groping well.
 " Who flings most filth, and wide pollutes around
 " The stream, oe his the Weekly Journals bound,
 " A pig of lead to him who dives the best ; 281
 " A peck of coals a piece shall glad the rest."

In naked majesty Oldmixon stands,
 And Milo-like surveys his arms and hands ;

REMARKS.

of his poem, which we may remember commenced in the evening of the Lord-mayor's day : The first book passed in that *night* ; the next *morning* the games begin in the Strand, thence along Fleet-street (places inhabited by Booksellers) then they proceed by Bride-well towards Fleet-ditch, and lastly thro' Ludgate to the City and the Temple of the Goddess.

VER. 276, 277, 288.—*dash thro' thick and thin,—love of dirt—dark dexterity*] The three chief qualifications of Party-writers : to stick at nothing, to delight in flinging dirt, and to slander in the dark by guesses.

VER. 280. *the Weekly Journals*] Papers of news and scandal intermixed, on different sides and parties, and frequently shifting from one side to the other, called the London Journal, British Journal, Daily Journal, &c. the concealed writers of which for some time were Oldmixon, Roome, Arnall, Concanen, and others ; persons never seen by our Author.

VER. 282. "*A peck of coals a-piece*] Our indulgent Poet, whenever he has spoken of any dirty or low work, constantly puts us in mind of the *Poverty* of the offenders, as the only extenuation of such practices. Let any one but remark, when a Thief, a Pick-pocket, an Highwayman, or a Knight of the post are spoken of, how much our hate to those characters is lessened, if they add a *needy* Thief, a *poor* Pick-pocket, an *hungry* Highwayman, a *starving* Knight of the post, &c.

VER. 283. *In naked majesty Oldmixon stands,*] Mrs.

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Then sighing thus, " And am I now threescore ? 285
 " Ah why, ye Gods, should two and two make four ?
 He said, and climb'd a stranded lighter's height,
 Shot to the black abyss, and plung'd downright.

R E M A R K S.

JOHN OLDMIXON, next to Mr. Dennis, the most ancient Critic of our nation ; an unjust censurer of Mr. Addison in his prose Essay on Criticism, whom also in his imitation of Bohours (called the Arts of Logic and Rhetoric) he misrepresents in plain matter of fact ; for in p. 45. he cites the Spectator as abusing Dr. Swift by name, where there is not the least hint of it ; and in p. 304. is so injurious as to suggest, that Mr. Addison himself writ that Tatler, No. 43. which says of his own Simile. that " 'Tis as great as ever entered " the mind of man." " In Poetry he was not so " happy as laborious, and therefore characterized by " the Tatler, No. 62. by the name of *Omicron* the " *Unborn Poet*." Curl, Key, p. 13. " He writ Dramatic works, and a volume of Poetry, consisting " of Heroic Epistles, &c. some whereof are very " well done," saith that great judge Mr. Jacob, in his Lives of Poets, vol. ii. p. 303.

In his Essay on Criticism, and the Arts of Logic and Rhetoric, he frequently reflects on our Author. But the top of his character was a Perverter of History, in the scandalous one of the Stuarts, in folio, and his Critical History of England, two volumes, octavo. Being employed by Bishop Kennet, in publishing the Historians in his Collection, he falsified Daniel's Chronicle in numberless places. Yet this very man in the preface to the first of these books, advanced a *particular fact* to charge three eminent

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 285. Then sighing, thus, " And am I now
 " three-score ?" &c.]

—Fletque Milon senior, cum spectat inanes,
 Herculeis similes, fluidos pendere lacertos. Ovid.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 157

The Senior's judgment all the crowd admire,
Who but to sink the deeper, rose the higher. 290

Next Smedley div'd; slow circles dimpled o'er
The quaking mud, that clos'd, and op'd no more,
All look, all sigh, and call on Smedley lost;
Smedley in vain resounds thro' all the coast.

Then * essay'd; scarce vanish'd out of sight, 295
He buoys up instant, and returns to light:

R E M A R K S.

persons of falsifying the lord Clarendon's History; which fact has been disproved by Dr. Atterbury, late bishop of Rochester, then the only survivor of them; and the particular part he pretended to be falsified, produced since, after almost ninety years, in that noble author's original manuscript. He was all his life a virulent Party-writer for hire, and received his reward in a small place, which he enjoyed to his death.

VER. 286. "*Ab why, ye Gods! should two and two make four?*" Very reasonably doth this ancient Critic complain: Without doubt it was a fault in the constitution of things. For the *World*, as a great writer saith, *being given to man for a subject of disputation*, he might think himself mocked with a penurious gift, were any thing made certain. Hence those superior masters of wisdom, the *Sceptics* and *Academicks*, reasonably conclude that *two and two do not make four*.

SCRIBL. W.

But we need not go so far to remark what the Poet principally intended, the absurdity of complaining of *old age*, which must necessarily happen, as long as we are indulged in our desires of adding one year to another.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 293. *and call on Smedley lost; &c.]*

*Alcides wept in vain for Hylas lost,
Hylas, in vain, resounds thro' all the coast.*

Lord Roscom. Translat. of Virgil's vith Ech.

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He bears no token of the fabler streams,
And mounts far off among the Swans of Thatnes.
True to the bottom see Concanen creep,
A cold, long-winded native of the deep: 300
If perseverance gain the Diver's prize,
Not everlasting Blackmore this denies:

VARIATIONS.

After ver. 298. in the first Edit. followed these,

Far worse unhappy D——r succeeds,
He search'd for coral, but he gather'd weeds.

REMARKS.

VER. 291. *Next Smedley div'd*;] In the surreptitious editions, this whole Episode was applied to an initial letter E——, by whom if they meant the Laureate, nothing was more absurd, no part agreeing with his character. The allegory evidently demands a person dipped in scandal, and deeply immersed in dirty work: whereas Mr. Eusden's writings rarely offended but by their length and multitude, and accordingly are taxed of nothing else in Book i. ver. 102. But the person here mentioned, an Irishman, was author and publisher of many scurrilous pieces, a weekly Whitehall Journal, in the year 1722. in the name of Sir James Baker; and particularly whole volumes of Billingsgate against Dr. Swift and Mr. Pope, called Gulliveriana and Alexandriana, printed in octavo, 1728.

VER. 295. *Then * essay'd*] A gentleman of genius and spirit, who was secretly dipt in some papers of this kind, on whom our Poet bestows a panegyric instead of a satire, as deserving to be better employed than

IMITATIONS.

VER. 302. *Not everlasting Blackmore*]

Nec bonus Eurytion praelato invidit honori, &c.
Virg. Æn.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 159

No noise, no stir, no motion canst thou make,
Th' unconscious stream sleeps o'er thee like a lake.

Next plung'd a feeble, but a desp'rate pack, 305

With each a sickly brother at his back :

Sons of a day ! just buoyant on the flood,

Then number'd with the puppies in the mud.

Ask ye their names ? I could as soon disclose

The names of these blind puppies as of those. 310

Fast by, like Niobe (her children gone)

Sits Mother Osborne, stupify'd to stone !

And Monumental Brass this record bears,

" These are,—ah no ! these were, the Gazetteers !"

R E M A R K S.

in party-quarrels, and personal invectives.

VER. 299. *Concanen*] MATTHEW CONCANEN, an Irishman, bred to the law. Smedley (one of his brethren in enmity to Swift) in his *Metamorphosis of Scriblerus*, p. 7. accuses him of " having boasted of " what he had not written, but others had revised and " done for him." He was author of several dull and dead scurrilities in the British and London Journals, and in a paper called the *Speculatist*. In a pamphlet, called a supplement to the *Profund*, he dealt very unfairly with our Poet, not only frequently imputing to him Mr. Broome's verses (for which he might indeed seem in some degree accountable, having corrected what that gentleman did) but those of the duke of Buckingham and others: To this rare piece somebody humorously caused him to take for his motto, *De profundis clamavi*. He was since a hired scribler in the *Daily Courant*, where he poured forth much Billingsgate against the lord Bolingbroke, and others; after which this man was surprisingly promoted to administer Justice and Law in Jamaica.

VER. 306, 307. *With each a sickly brother at his back : Sons of a day !* [Sc.] These were daily papers, a number

Not so bold Arnall ; with a weight of skull, 315
Furious he dives, precipitately dull.

REMARKS.

of which, to lessen the expence, were printed one on the back of another.

VER. 311. *Like Niobe*] See the story in Ovid, Met. vii. where the miserable petrefaction of this old Lady is pathetically described.

VER. 312. *Osborne*] A name assumed by the eldest and gravest of these writers, who at last, being ashamed of his Pupils, gave his paper over, and in his age remained silent.

VER. 314. *Gazetteers*] We ought not to suppress that a modern Critic here taxeth the Poet with an Anachronism, affirming these Gazetteers not to have lived within the time of his poem, and challenging us to produce any such paper of that date. But we may with equal assurance assert, these Gazetteers not to have lived since, and challenge all the learned world to produce one such paper at this day. Surely therefore, where the point is so obscure, our Author ought not to be censured too rashly. SCRIBL.

Notwithstanding this affected ignorance of the good Scriblerus, the *Daily Gazette* was a title given very properly to certain papers, each of which lasted but a day. Into this, as a common sink, was received all the trash, which had been before dispersed in several Journals, and circulated at the public expence of the nation. The authors were the same obscure men; though sometimes relieved by occasional essays from Statesmen, Courtiers, Bishops, Deans, and Doctors. The meaner sort were rewarded with money; others with Places or Benefices, from an hundred to a thousand a year. It appears from the *Report* of the *Secret Committee*, for enquiring into the conduct of R. Earl of O. "That no less than *fifty thousand, seventy-seven pounds, eighteen shillings*, were paid to Authors and Printers of News-papers, such as Free-Britons, Daily-Courants, Corn-Cutter's Journals, Gazetteers, and other political papers, between

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Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 161

Whirlpools and storms his circling arm invest,
 With all the might of gravitation blest.
 No crab more active in the dirty dance,
 Downward to climb, and backward to advance. 320
 He brings up half the bottom on his head,
 And loudly claims the Journals and the Lead.
 The plunging Prelate, and his pond'rous Grace,
 With holy envy gave one Layman place.

REMARKS.

Feb. 10, 1731. and Feb. 10, 1741." Which shews the Benevolence of One Minister to have expended, for the current dulness of ten years in Britain, double the sum which gained Lewis XIV. so much honour, in annual Pensions to Learned men all over Europe. In which, and in a much longer time, not a Pension at Court, nor Preferment in the Church or Universities, of any consideration, was bestowed on any man distinguished for his Learning separately from party-merit, or pamphlet-writing.

It is worth a reflection, that of all the Panegyrics bestowed by these writers on this great Minister, not one is at this day extant or remembered; nor even so much credit done to his Personal character by all they have written, as by one short occasional compliment of our Author:

Seen him I have; but in his *happier hour*,
 Of *social pleasure*, ill exchang'd for *Pow'r*!
 Seen him uncumber'd by the Venal Tribe,
 Smile without *Art*, and win without a *Bribe*.

VER. 317. *Arnall*] WILLIAM ARNALL, bred an Attorney, was a perfect Genius in this sort of work. He began under twenty with furious Party-papers; then succeeded Concanen in the British Journal. At the first publication of the Dunciad, he prevailed on the Author not to give him his due place in it, by a letter professing his detestation of such practices as his pre-

162 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

When lo! a burst of thunder shook the flood, 325
 Slow rose a form, in majesty of Mud;
 Shaking the horrors of his sable brows,
 And each ferocious feature grim with ooze.
 Greater he looks, and more than mortal stares:
 Then thus the wonders of the deep declares. 330
 First he relates, how sinking to the chin,
 Smit with his mien the Mud-nymphs suck'd him in:
 How young Lutetia, softer than the down,
 Nigrina black, and Merdamante brown,
 Vy'd for his love in jetty bow'rs below, 335
 As Hylas fair was ravish'd long ago.
 Then sung, how shown him by the Nut-brown maids
 A branch of Styx here rises from the Shades,

R E M A R K S.

decessor's." But since, by the most unexampled infolence, and personal abuse of several great men, the Poet's particular friends, he most amply deserved a niche in the Temple of Infamy: Witness a paper called the Free Briton; a Dedication intitled, To the Genuine Blunderer, 1732, and many others. He writ for hire, and valued himself upon it; not indeed without cause, it appearing by the aforesaid REPORT, that he received, "for Free Britons, and other writings, "in the space of four years, no less than ten thousand "nine hundred and ninety seven pounds, six shillings, "and eight pence, out of the Treasury." But frequently, thro' his fury or folly, he exceeded all the bounds of his commission, and obliged his honourable Patron to disavow his scurrilities.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 329. Greater he looks, and more than mortal stares.] Virg. Æn. vi. of the Sibyl:

———majorque videri,
 Nec mortale sonans———

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 163

That tinctur'd as it runs with Lethe's streams,
And wafting Vapours from the Land of dreams, 340
(As under seas Alpheus' secret sluice
Bears Pisa's off'rings to his Arethuse).

Pours into Thames: and hence the mingled wave
Intoxicates the pert, and lulls the grave:

Here brisker vapours o'er the Temple creep, 345
There, all from Paul's to Aldgate drink and sleep.

Thence to the banks where rev'rend Bards repose,
They led him soft; each rev'rend Bard arose;

And Milbourn chief, deputed by the rest,
Gave him the cassock, surcingle, and vest. 350

REMARKS.

VER. 323. *The plunging Prelate, &c.*] It having been invidiously insinuated that by this Title was meant a truly great Prelate, as respectable for his defence of the present balance of power in the *civil* constitution, as for his opposition to no power at all in the *religious*; I owe so much to the memory of my deceased friend as to declare, that when, a little before his death, I informed him of this insinuation, he called it vile and malicious, as any candid man, he said, might understand, by his having paid a willing compliment to this very Prelate in another part of the Poem. W.

VER. 336. *As Hylas fair*] Who was ravished by the water-nymphs and drawn into the river. The story is told at large by Valerius Flaccus, lib. iii. Argon. See Virgil, Ecl. vi.

VER. 338. *A branch of Styx, &c.*]

Οἳ τ' ἀμφ' ἱμερτὸν Τιταρήσιον ἔργ' ἐνέμοντο
Ὅς ῥῆς Πηνειὸν ποταμὸν καλλιζέουσιν ὕδαρ,
Οὐδ' ὄγε Πηνειῷ συμμίσγεται αργυροδίνῃ,
Ἀλλὰ τέ μιν καθύπερθεν ἐπιρρέει ἡὺτ' ἔλαιον.
Ὅρκω γὰρ δαινῶ Στυγὸς ὕδατός ἐστιν ἀπορρέωξ.

Homer, Il. ii. Catal.

164 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

"Receive (he said) these robes which once were mine,
"Dulness is sacred in a sound divine."

He ceas'd, and spread the robe; the crowd confess
The rev'rend Flamen, in his lengthen'd dress.

Around him wide a sable Army stand, 355

A low-born, cell-bred, selfish, servile band,
Prompt or to guard or stab, to faint or damn,
Heav'n's Swiss, who fight for any God, or Man.

R E M A R K S.

Of the land of Dreams in the same region, he makes mention, *Odyss. xxiv.* See also *Lucian's True History.* *Lethe* and the *Land of Dreams* allegorically represent the *Stupescation* and *visionary Madness* of Poets, equally dull and extravagant. Of *Alpheus's* waters gliding secretly under the sea of *Pisa*, to mix with those of *Arethuse* in *Sicily*, see *Moschus, Idyl. viii.* *Virg. Ecl. x.*

*Sic tibi, cum fluctus subter labere Sicanos,
Doris amara suam non intermisceat undam.*

And again, *Æn. iii.*

—— *Alphæum fama est huc, Elidis amnem,
Occultas egisse vias subter mare, qui nunc
Ore, Arethusa, tuo Siculis confunditur undis.*

VER. 349. *And Milbourn]* Luke Milbourn, a Clergyman, the fairest of Critics; who, when he wrote

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 346. *Thence to the banks, &c.]*

*Tum canit errantem Permessi ad flumina Gallum,
Utque viro Phæbi chorus assurrexerit omnis;
Ut Linus hæc illi divino carmine pastor,
Floribus atque apio crines ornatus amaro,
Dixerit, Hos tibi dant calamos, en accipe, Musæ,
Aschæo quos ante seni——&c.*

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 165

Thro' L^od's fam'd gates, along the well-known
Fleet,

Rolls the black troop, and overshades the street, 360

'Till show'rs of Sermons, Characters, Essays,

In circling fleeces whiten all the ways :

So clouds replenish'd from some bog below,

Mount in dark volumes, and descend in snow.

Here stopt the Goddess; and in pomp proclaims 365

A gentler exercise to close the games.

" Ye Critics ! in whose heads, as equal scales,

" I weigh what author's heaviness prevails ;

" Which most conduce to sooth the soul in slumbers,

" My H—ley's periods, or my Blackmore's numbers ;

R E M A R K S.

against Mr. Dryden's Virgil, did him justice in printing at the same time his own translations of him, which were intolerable. His manner of writing has a great resemblance with that of the Gentlemen of the Dunciad against our Author, as will be seen in the Parallel of Mr. Dryden and him. Append.

VER. 355. *Around him wide, &c.*] It is to be hoped that the satire in these lines will be understood in the confined sense in which the Author meant it, of such only of the Clergy, who, though solemnly engaged in the service of Religion, dedicate themselves for venal and corrupt ends to that of Ministers or Factions; and tho' educated under an entire ignorance of the world aspire to interfere in the government of it, and consequently, to disturb and disorder it; in which they fall short only of their Predecessors, when invested with a larger share of power and authority, which they employed indifferently (as is hinted at in the lines above) either in supporting arbitrary power, or in exciting rebellion; in canonizing the vices of Tyrants, or in blackening the virtues of Patriots; in corrupting religion by superstition, or betraying it by libertinism, as either was thought best to serve the ends of Policy, or flatter the follies of the Great. W.

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" Attend the trial we propose to make : 371
 " If there be man, who o'er such works can wake,
 " Sleep's all-subduing charms who dares defy,
 " And boasts Ulysses' ear with Argus' eye ;
 " To him we grant our amplest pow'rs to fit 375
 " Judge of all present, past, and future wit ;
 " To cavil, censure, dictate, right or wrong,
 " Full and eternal privilege of tongue."

Three College Sophs, and three pert Templars
 came,

The same their talents, and their tastes the same ;
 Each prompt to query, answer, and debate, 381
 And smit with love of Poesy and Prate,
 The pond'rous books two gentle readers bring ;
 The heroes sit, the vulgar form a ring.

REMARKS.

VER. 359. *Lud's fam'd gates,*] " King Lud repair-
 ing the city called it, after his own name, Lud's
 " Town ; the strong gate which he built in the west
 " part, he likewise, for his own honour, named Lud-
 " gate. In the year 1260 this gate was beautified
 " with the images of Lud and other Kings. Those
 " images in the reign of Edward VI. had their heads
 " smitten off, and were otherwise defaced by unad-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 380, 381. *The same their talents—Each prompt,
 &c.]*

*Ambo florentes ætatibus, Arcades ambo,
 Et certare pares, & respondere parati.* Virg. Ecl. vi.

VER. 382. *And smit with love of Poesy and Prate.]*

Smit with the love of sacred song—— Milton.

VER. 384. *The heroes sit, the vulgar form a ring:]*
Consedere duces, & vulgi stante corona. Ov. Met. xiii.

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 167

The clam'rous crowd is hush'd with mugs of Mum,
 'Till all, tun'd equal, send a general hum. 386
 Then mount the Clerks, and in one lazy tone
 Thro' the long, heavy, painful page drawl on ;
 Soft creeping, words on words, the sense compose,
 At ev'ry line they stretch, they yawn, they doze. 390
 As to soft gales top heavy pines bow low
 Their heads, and list them as they cease to blow :
 Thus oft they rear, and oft the head decline,
 As breathe, or pause, by fits, the airs divine.
 And now to this side, now to that they nod, 395
 As verse, or prose, infuse the drowzy God.
 Thrice Budget aim'd to speak, but thrice suppress
 By potent Arthur, knock'd his chin and breast.

REMARKS.

"vis'd folks. Queen Mary did set new heads upon
 "their old bodies again. The 28th of Queen Eli-
 "zabeth the same gate was clean taken down, and
 "newly and beautifully builded, with images of Lud
 "and others, as afore." *Stow's Survey of London.*

VER. 374. See *Hom. Odyss. xii.* *Ovid, Met. i.*

VER. 388. *Thro' the long, heavy, painful page, &c.*

"All these lines very well imitate the slow drowziness
 "with which they proceed. It is impossible to any
 "one, who has a poetical ear, to read them without
 "perceiving the heaviness that lags in the verse, to
 "imitate the action it describes. The simile of the
 "Pines is very just and well adapted to the subject ;"
 says an Enemy, in his Essay on the Dunciad, p. 21.

VER. 397. *Thrice Budget aim'd to speak,*] Famous for
 his speeches on many occasions about the South Sea
 scheme, &c. "He is a very ingenious gentleman, and
 "hath written some excellent Epilogues to Plays, and
 "one small piece on Love, which is very pretty." *Jacob, Lives of Poets, vol. ii. p. 289.* But this gentle-

168 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Toland and Tindal, prompt at priests to jeer,
 Yet silent bow'd to *Christ's No kingdom here.* 400
 Who fate the nearest, by the words o'ercome,
 Sleep first; the distant nodded to the hum.
 Then down are roll'd the books; stretch'd o'er 'em lies
 Each gentle clerk, and mutt'ring seals his eyes,
 As what a Dutchman plumps into the lakes, 405
 One circle first, and then a second makes;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 399. In the first Edit. it was,
 Collins and Tindal, prompt at priests to jeer.

REMARKS.

man since made himself much more eminent, and personally well known to the greatest Statesmen of all parties, as well as to all the Courts of Law in this nation.

VER. 399. *Toland and Tindal,*] Two persons, not so happy as to be obscure, who writ against the Religion of their Country. *Toland*, the author of the Atheist's Liturgy, called *Pantheisticon*, was a spy, in pay to lord Oxford. *Tindal* was author of the *Rights of the Christian Church*, and *Christianity as old as the Creation*. He also wrote an abusive pamphlet against Earl S—, which was suppress'd while yet in MS. by an eminent person, then out of the ministry, to whom he shewed it expecting his approbation: This Doctor afterwards published the same piece, *mutatis mutandis*, against that very person.

VER. 400. *Christ's No kingdom, &c.*] This is said by Curl, Key to Dunc. to allude to a sermon of a reverend Bishop.

VER. 405. *As what a Dutchman, &c.*] It is a common and foolish mistake, that a ludicrous parody of a grave and celebrated passage is a ridicule of that passage. The reader therefore, if he will, may call this a parody of the author's own sublime Similitude in the Essay on Man, Ep. iv.

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Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 169

What Dulness dropt among her sons impress
Like motion, from one circle to the rest ;
So from the mid-most the nutation spreads
Round and more round, o'er all the *sea of heads*. 410
At last Centlivre felt her voice to fail,
Motteux himself unfinish'd left his tale,
Boyer the State, and Law the Stage gave o'er,
Morgan and Mandevil could prate no more ;

VARIATIONS.

VER. 413. In the first Edit. it was,

T—s and T— the Church and State gave o'er
Nor *** talk'd, nor S—— whisper'd more.

REMARKS.

As the small pebble, &c.

But will any body therefore suspect the one to be a ridicule of the other ? A ridicule indeed there is in every parody : but when the image is transferred from one subject to another, and the subject is not a *poem burlesqued* (which Scriblerus hopes the reader will distinguish from a *burlesque poem*) there the ridicule falls not on the thing *imitated*, but *imitating*. Thus, for instance, when

Old Edward's armour beams on Cibber's breast,

it is, without doubt, an object ridiculous enough. But I think it falls neither on old king Edward, nor his armour, but on his *armour-bearer* only. Let this be said to explain our Author's Parodies (a figure that has al-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 410. *o'er all the sea of heads.*]

*A waving sea of heads was round me spread,
And still fresh streams the gazing deluge fed.*

Blackm. Job.

170 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

Norton, from Daniel and Ostrœa sprung, 415
Bless'd with his father's front, and mother's tongue,

R E M A R K S.

ways a good effect in a mock epic poem) either from profane or sacred writers. W.

VER. 411. *Centlivre*] Mrs. Susanna Centlivre, wife to Mr. Centlivre, Yeoman of the Mouth to his Majesty. She writ many Plays, and a Song (says Mr. Jacob, vol. i. p. 32.) before she was seven years old. She also writ a Ballad against Mr. Pope's Homer before he began it.

VER. 413. *Boyer the State, and Law the Stage gave o'er,*] A. Boyer, a voluminous compiler of Annals, Political Collections, &c.—William Law, A. M. wrote with great zeal against the Stage; Mr. Dennis answered with as great: Their books were printed in 1726. Mr. Law affirmed, that “ The Play-house is the temple of the Devil; the peculiar pleasure of the Devil; where all they who go, yield to the Devil; where all the laughter is a laughter among Devils; and all who are there are hearing Music in the very Porch of Hell.” To which Mr. Dennis replied, that “ There is every jot as much difference between a true Play, and one made by a Poetaster, as between two religious books, the Bible and the Alcoran.” Then he demonstrates, that “ All those who had written against the Stage were Jacobites and Non-jurors; and did it always at a time when something was to be done for the Pretender. Mr. Collier published his Short View when France declared for the Chevalier; and his Dissuasive, just at the great storm, when the devastation, which that hurricane wrought, had amazed and astonished the minds of men, and made them obnoxious to melancholy and desponding thoughts. Mr. Law took the opportunity to attack the Stage upon the great preparations he heard were making abroad, and which the Jacobites flattered themselves were designed in their favour. And as for Mr. Bedford's Serious Remonstrance, though I know nothing of the time of publishing it, yet I dare to lay odds it was either upon

VER.
Allude
All

Book II. THE DUNCIAD. 171

Hung silent down his never-blushing head ;
And all was hush'd, as Folly's self lay dead.

Thus the soft gifts of sleep conclude the day,
And stretch'd on bulks, as usual, Poets lay. 420
Why should I sing, what bards the nightly Muse
Did slumb'ring visit, and convey to stews ;
Who prouder march'd, with magistrates in state,
To some fam'd round-house, ever open gate !
How Henley lay inspir'd beside a sink, 425
And to mere mortals seem'd a Priest in drink :

REMARKS.

" the Duke d'Aumont's being at Somerset-house, or
" upon the *late Rebellion*." DENNIS, Stage defended
against Mr. Law, p. ult. The same Mr. Law is author
of a book, intitled, *An Appeal to all that doubt of or dis-*
believe the truth of the gospel ; in which he has detailed
a system of the rankest Spinozism, for the most exalted
Theology ; and amongst other things as rare, has in-
formed us of this, that Sir Isaac Newton stole the prin-
ciples of his philosophy from one *Jacob Behman*, a
German cobbler.

VER. 414. *Morgan*] A writer against religion, di-
stinguished no otherwise from the rabble of his tribe,
than by the pompousness of his Title ; for having sto-
len his Morality from Tindal, and his Philosophy from
Spinoza, he calls himself, by the courtesy of Eng-
land, a *Moral Philosopher*. W.

Ibid. *Mandevil*] This writer, who prided himself as
much in the reputation of an *Immoral Philosopher*, was
author of a famous book called *the Fable of the Bees* ;
written to prove, that Moral Virtue is the invention of

IMITATIONS.

VER. 418. *And all was hush'd, as Folly's self lay dead.*]
Alludes to Dryden's verse in the Indian Emperor :

All things are hush'd, as Nature's self lay dead.

172 THE DUNCIAD. Book II.

While others, timely, to the neigh'ring Fleet
(Haunt of the Muses) made their safe retreat,

R E M A R K S.

knaves, and Christian Virtue the imposition of fools; and that Vice is necessary, and alone sufficient to render Society flourishing and happy. W.

VER. 415. *Norton*] Norton De Foe, offspring of the famous Daniel. *Fortes creantur fortibus.* One of the authors of the Flying Post, in which well-bred work Mr. P. had sometime the honour to be abused with his betters; and of many hired scurrilities and daily papers to which he never set his name.

VER. 426. *And to mere mortals seem'd a Priest in drink:]* This line presents us with an excellent moral, that we are never to pass judgment merely by *appearances*; a lesson to all men, who may happen to see a reverend Person in the like situation, not to determine too rashly: since not only the Poets frequently describe a Bard in this posture,

(*On Cam's fair bank, where Chaucer lay inspir'd,* and the like) but an eminent Casuist tells us, that "if a Priest be seen in any indecent action, we ought to account it a deception of sight, or illusion of the Devil, who sometimes takes upon him the shape of holy men on purpose to cause scandal." SCRIBL.

VER. 427. *Fleet*] A prison for insolvent Debtors on the bank of the Ditch.

The End of the SECOND BOOK.

T H E
D U N C I A D :

BOOK THE THIRD.

A R G U M E N T.

After the other persons are disposed in their proper places of rest, the Goddess transports the King to her Temple, and there lays him to slumber with his head on her lap; a position of marvellous virtue, which causes all the visions of wild enthusiasts, projectors, politicians, inamoratos, castle-builders, chemists, and poets. He is immediately carried on the wings of Fancy, and led by a mad Poetical Sibyl to the Elysian shade; where, on the banks of Lethe, the souls of the dull are dipped by Bavius, before their entrance into this world. There he is met by the ghost of Settle, and by him made acquainted with the wonders of the place, and with those which he himself is destined to perform. He takes him to a Mount of Vision, from whence he shews him the past triumphs of the Empire of Dulness, then the present, and lastly the future: how small a part of the world was ever conquered by Science, how soon those conquests were stopped, and those very nations again reduced to her dominion. Then distinguishing the Island of Great-Britain, shews by what aids, by what persons, and by what degrees it shall be brought to her Empire. Some of the persons he causes to pass in review before

his eyes, describing each by his proper figure, character, and qualifications. On a sudden the Scene shifts, and a vast number of miracles and prodigies appear, utterly surprising and unknown to the King himself, till they are explained to be the wonders of his own reign now commencing. On this subject Settle breaks into a congratulation, yet not unmixed with concern, that his own times were but types of these. He prophesies how first the nation shall be over-run with Farces, Operas, and Shows; how the throne of Dulness shall be advanced over the Theatres, and set up even at Court; then how her Sons shall preside in the seats of Arts and Sciences: giving a glimpse or Pisgah-sight of the future Fulness of her Glory, the accomplishment whereof is the subject of the fourth and last book.

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B O O K III.

BUT in her Temple's last recess inclos'd,
 On Dulness lap th' Anointed head repos'd:
 Him close she curtains round with Vapours blue,
 And soft besprinkles with Cimmerian dew.
 Then raptures high the seat of Sense o'erflow, 5
 Which only heads refin'd from Reason know.
 Hence, from the straw where Bedlam's Prophet nods,
 He hears loud Oracles, and talks with Gods :

R E M A R K S.

VER. 5, 6, &c. Hereby is intimated that the following Vision is no more than the chimera of the dreamer's brain, and not a real or intended satire on the present Age, doubtless more learned, more enlightened, and more abounding with great Geniuses in Divinity, Politics, and whatever arts and sciences, than all the preceding. For fear of any such mistake of our Poet's honest meaning, he hath again, at the end of the Vision, repeated this monition, saying that it all pass'd through the *Ivory gate*, which (according to the Antients) denoteth Falsity.

SCRIBL.

How much the good Scriblerus was mistaken, may be seen from the fourth book, which, it is plain from hence, he had never seen.

BENTL.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 7, 8. *Hence, from the straw where Bedlam's Prophet nods,
 He hears loud Oracles, and talks with Gods :]*

*Et varias audit voces, fruiturque deorum
 Celloquio——*

Virg. Æn. viii.

176 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Hence the Fool's Paradise, the Statesman's Scheme,
The air-built Castle, and the golden Dream, 10
The Maid's romantic wish, the Chemist's flame,
And Poet's vision of eternal Fame.

And now, on Fancy's easy wing convey'd,
The King descending views th' Elysian Shade:
A slip-shod Sibyl led his steps along, 15
In lofty madness meditating Song ;

REMARKS.

VER. 15. *A slip-shod Sibyl*] This allegory is extremely just, no conformation of the mind so much subjecting it to real *Madness*, as that which produces real *Dulness*. Hence we find the religious (as well as the poetical) Enthusiasts of all ages were ever, in their natural state, most heavy and lumpish ; but on the least application of *heat*, they run like lead, which of all metals falls quickest into fusion. Whereas *fire* in a Genius is truly Promethean, it hurts not its constituent parts, but only fits it (as it does well-tempered steel) for the necessary impressions of art. But the common people have been taught (I do not know on what foundation) to regard Lunacy as a mark of *Wit*, just as the Turks and our modern Methodists do of *Holiness*. But if the cause of Madness assigned by a great Philosopher be true, it will unavoidably fall upon the dunces. He supposes it to be the *dwelling over long on one object or idea* : Now as this attention is occasioned either by Grief or Study, it will be fixed by Dulness ; which hath not quickness enough to comprehend what it seeks, nor force and vigour enough to divert the Imagination from the object it laments. W.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 15. *A slip-shod Sibyl &c.*]

Conclamat Vates——

——*furens antro se immisit aperto.* Virg.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 177

Her tresses staring from Poetic dreams,
And never wash'd, but in Castalia's dreams.
Taylor, their better Charon, lends an oar,
(Once swan of Thames, tho' now he sings no more.)
Benlowes, propitious still to blockheads, bows ; 21
And Shadwell nods the Poppy on his brows.
Here, in a dusky vale where Lethe rolls,
Old Bavius sits, to dip poetic souls;

REMARKS.

VER. 19. *Taylor*] John Taylor the Water-poet, an honest man, who owns he learned not so much as the Accidence : A rare example of modesty in a Poet !

*I must confess I do want eloquence,
And never scarce did learn my Accidence ;
For having got from possum to posset,
I there was gravel'd, could no farther get,*

He wrote fourscore books in the reign of James I. and Charles I. and afterwards (like Edward Ward) kept an Ale-house in Long-Acre. He died in 1654.

VER. 21. *Benlowes*,] A country gentleman, famous for his own bad poetry, and for patronizing bad poets, as may be seen from many Dedications of Quarles and others to him. Some of these anagram'd his name, *Benlowes* into *Benevolus*: to verify which, he spent his whole estate upon them.

VER. 22. *And Shadwell nods the Poppy &c.*] Shadwell took Opium for many years, and died of too large a dose, in 1692.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 23. *Here, in a dusky vale &c.*]

——— *Videt Æneas in valle reducta*

Seclusum nemus ———

Lethæumque domos placidas qui prænatat amnem, &c.

Hunc circum innumera gentes, &c. Virg. *Æn.* vi.

178 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

And blunt the sense, and fit it for a skull 25
Of solid proof, impenetrably dull :
Instant, when dipt, away they wing their flight,
Where Brown and Mears unbar the gates of Light,
Demand new bodies, and in Calf's array
Rush to the world, impatient for the day. 30

R E M A R K S.

VER. 24. *Old Bavius fits,*] Bavius was an ancient Poet, celebrated by Virgil for the like cause as Bays by our Author, though not in so christian like a manner: For heathenishly it is declared by Virgil of Bavius, that he ought to be *bated* and *detested* for his evil works ; *Qui Bavium non odit* ; whereas we have often had occasion to observe our Poet's great *Good Nature* and *Mercifulness* thro' the whole course of this Poem.

SCRIBL.

Mr. Dennis warmly contends, that Bavius was no inconsiderable author ; nay, that “ He and Mævius
“ had (even in Augustus's days) a very formidable
“ party at Rome, who thought them much superior
“ to Virgil and Horace : For (saith he) I cannot be-
“ lieve they would have fixed that eternal brand up-
“ on them, if they had not been coxcombs in more
“ than ordinary credit.” Rem. on Pr. Arthur, part
ii. c. i. An argument which, if this poem should
last, will conduce to the honour of the gentlemen of
the Dunciad.

VER. 28. *Brown and Mears*] Bookfellers, Printers for

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 24. *Old Bavius fits, to dip poetic souls,*] Al-
luding to the story of Thetis dipping Achilles to ren-
der him impenetrable :

*At pater Anchises penitus convalle virenti
Inclusas animas, superumque ad lumen ituras,
Lustrabat* ————— Virg. Æn. vi.

VER. 28. *unbar the gates of Light,*] An Hemistich of
Milton.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 179

Millions and millions on these banks he views,
Thick as the stars of night, or morning dews,
As thick as bees o'er vernal blossoms fly,
As thick as eggs at Ward in pillory. 34

Wond'ring he gaz'd : When lo ! a Sage appears,
By his broad Shoulders known, and length of ears,

R E M A R K S.

any body.—The allegory of the souls of the dull coming forth in the form of books, dressed in calf's leather, and being let abroad in vast numbers by Booksellers, is sufficiently intelligible.

VER. 34. *Ward in Pillory.*] John Ward of Hackney, Esq. Member of Parliament, being convicted of forgery, was first expelled the House, and then sentenced to the Pillory on the 17th of February 1727. Mr. Curl (having likewise stood there) looks upon the mention of such a Gentleman in a satire, as a *great act of barbarity*. Key to the Dunc. 3d, edit. p. 16: And another author reasons thus upon it. Durgen. 8vo. p. 11, 12. "How unworthy is it of *Christian Charity*, "to animate the *rabble* to abuse a *worthy man* in such "a situation? What could move the Poet thus to mention a *brave sufferer*, a *gallant prisoner*, exposed to "the view of all mankind! It was laying aside his "Senses, it was committing a *Crime*, for which the "Law is deficient not to punish him! nay, a Crime "which *Man can scarce forgive*, or *Time efface*! No- "thing surely could have induced him to it but being "bribed by a great Lady, &c." (to whom this brave, honest, worthy Gentleman was guilty of no offence but Forgery, proved in open court.) But it is

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 31, 32. *Millions and millions—Thick as the stars, &c.*]

*Quam multa in silvis autumni frigore primo
Lapsa cadunt folia, aut ad terram gurgite ab alto
Quam multæ glomerantur aves, &c.* Virg. *Æn.* vii.

Known by the band and suit which Settle wore
 (His only suit) for twice three years before :
 All as the vest, appear'd the wearer's frame,
 Old in new state, another yet the same. 40

REMARKS.

evident this verse could not be meant of him ; it being notorious that no *Eggs* were thrown at that Gentleman. Perhaps therefore it might be intended of Mr. Edward Ward the Poet when he stood there.

VER. 36. *and length of ears,*] This is a *sophisticated* reading. I think I may venture to affirm all the Copyists are mistaken here: I believe I may say the same of the Critics ; Dennis, Oldmixon, Welsted have passed it in silence. I have almost stumbled at it, and wondered how an error so manifest could escape such accurate persons. I dare assert it proceeded originally from the inadvertency of some Transcriber, whose head ran on the *Pillory*, mentioned two lines before ; it is therefore amazing that Mr. Curl himself should overlook it ! Yet that *Scholiast* takes not the least notice hereof. That the learned Mist also read it thus, is plain from his ranging this passage among those in which our Author was blamed for *personal Satire* on a *Man's face* (whereof doubtless he might take the *ear* to be a part ;) so likewise Concanen, Ralph, the Flying Post, and all the herd of Commentators.—*Tota armenta sequuntur.*

A very little sagacity (which all these Gentlemen therefore wanted) will restore us to the true sense of the Poet, thus,

By his broad shoulders known, and length of years.

See how easy a change ; of one single letter ! That Mr. Settle was old, is most certain ; but he was (happily) a stranger to the *Pillory*. This note partly Mr. THEOBALD'S, partly SCRIB.

VER. 37. *Settle*] Elkanah Settle was once a Writer in vogue as well as Cibber, both for Dramatic Poetry and Politics. Mr. Dennis tells us, that " he was a " formidable rival to Mr. Dryden, and that in the Uni-

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 181

Bland and familiar as in life, begun
Thus the great Father to the greater Son.

Oh born to see what none can see awake !
Behold the wonders of th' oblivious Lake.
Thou, yet unborn, hast touch'd this sacred shore ;
The hand of Bavius drench'd thee o'er and o'er. 46
But blind to former, as to future fate,
What mortal knows his præ-existent state ?
Who knows how long thy transmigrating soul
Might from Bæotian to Bæotian roll ? 50
How many Dutchmen she vouchsaf'd to thrid ?
How many stages thro' old Monks she rid ?
And all who since, in mild benighted days,
Mix'd the Owl's ivy with the Poet's bays.

R E M A R K S.

" versity of Cambridge there were those who gave
" him the *preference*." Mr. Welsted goes yet farther
in his behalf : " Poor Settle was formerly the *Mighty*
" *rival* of Dryden ; nay, for *many years*, bore his re-
" putation *above* him." Pref. to his Poems, 8vo. p.
31. And Mr. Milborn cried out, " How little was
" Dryden able, even when his blood run high, to de-
" fend himself against Mr. Settle !" Notes on Dryd.
Vir. p. 175. These are comfortable opinions ! and no
wonder some authors indulge them.

He was author or publisher of many noted pamphlets
in the time of king Charles II. He answered all Dry-
den's political poems ; and, being cried up on *one side*,
succeeded not a little in his Tragedy of the Empress of
Morocco the first that was ever printed with Cuts.)
" Upon this he grew insolent, the Wits writ against his
" Play, he replied, and the Town judged he had the
" better. In short, Settle was then thought a very
" formidable rival to Mr. Dryden ; and not only the
" Town but the University of Cambridge was divided
" which to prefer ; and in both places the younger sort

182 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

As man's Mæanders to the vital spring 55
Roll all their tides ; then back their circles bring ;
Or whirligigs twirl'd round by skilful swain,
Suck the thread in, then yield it out again :
All nonsense thus, of old or modern date,
Shall in thee centre, in thee circulate. 60
For this our Queen unfolds to vision true
Thy mental eye, for thou hast much to view :

R E M A R K S.

“ inclined to Elkanah.” DENNIS, Pref. to Rem. on Hom.

VER. 50. *Might from Bæotian &c.*] Bæotia lay under the ridicule of the Wits formerly, as Ireland does now ; tho' it produced one of the greatest Poets and one of the greatest Generals of Greece :

Bæotum crasso jurares æere natum. Horat.

VER. 67. *Ascend this hill, &c.*] The scenes of this vision are remarkable for the order of their appearance.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 54. *Mix'd the Owl's ivy with the Poet's bays.*]

— *sine tempora circum*
Inter victrices bederam tibi serpere lauros.
Virg. Ecl. viii.

VER. 61, 62. *For this our Queen unfolds to vision true*
Thy mental eye, for thou hast much to view :

This has a resemblance to that passage in Milton, book xi. where the Angel

To noble fights from Adam's eye remov'd
The film ; then purg'd with Euphrasie and Rue
*The visual nerve—*For he had much to see.

There is a general allusion in what follows to that whole Episode.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 183

Old scenes of glory, times long cast behind
 Shall, first recall'd, rush forward to thy mind :
 Then stretch thy sight o'er all her rising reign, 65
 And let the past and future fire thy brain.

Ascend this hill, whose cloudy point commands
 Her boundless empire over seas and lands.
 See, round the Poles where keener spangles shine,
 Where spices smoke beneath the burning Line, 70
 (Earth's wide extremes) her sable flag display'd,
 And all the nations cover'd in her shade.

Far eastward cast thine eye, from whence the Sun
 And orient Science their bright course begun :
 One god-like Monarch all that pride confounds, 75
 He, whose long wall the wand'ring Tartar bounds;

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 73. In the former Ed.

Far eastward cast thine eye, from whence the Sun
 And orient Science *at a birth begun.*

But as this was thought to contradict that line of the Introduction.

In eldest times, e'er Mortals writ or read,

which supposes the sun and science did not set out together, it was altered to *their bright course begun*. But this slip, as usual, escaped the gentlemen of the Dunciad.
 W.

R E M A R K S.

First, from ver 67 to 73. those places of the globe are shewn where Science *never* rose; then from ver. 74 to 83, those where she was destroyed by *Tyranny*; from ver. 85 to 95, by inundations from *Barbarians*; from ver. 96 to 106, by *Superstition*. Then Rome, the Mistress of Arts, described in her degeneracy; and lastly Britain, the scene of the action of the poem; which

184 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Heav'ns ! what a pile ! whole ages perish there,
 And one bright blaze turns Learning into air.
 Thence to the south extend thy gladden'd eyes ;
 There rival flames with equal glory rise, 80
 From shelves to shelves see greedy Vulcan roll,
 And lick up all their Physic of the Soul,
 How little, mark ! that portion of the ball,
 Where, faint at best, the beams of science fall :
 Soon as they dawn, from Hyperborean skies 85
 Embod' d dark, what clouds of Vandals rise !
 Lo ! where Mæotis sleeps, and hardly flows
 The freezing Tanais thro' a waste of snows,
 The North by myriads pours her mighty sons,
 Great nurse of Goths, of Alans, and of Huns ! 90
 See Alaric's stern port ! the martial frame
 Of Genferic ! and Attila's dread name !
 See the bold Ostrogoths on Latium fall ;
 See the fierce Visigoths on Spain and Gaul !
 See, where the morning gilds the palmy shore ;
 (The soil that arts and infant letters bore)

R E M A R K S.

furnishes the occasion of drawing out the Progeny of Dulneis in review.

VER. 69. *See round the Poles &c.*] Almost the whole Southern and Northern Continent wrapt in ignorance.

VER. 73. Our Author favours the opinion that all Sciences came from the Eastern nations.

VER. 75. Chi Ho am-ti Emperor of China, the same who built the great wall between China and Tartary, destroyed all the books and learned men of that empire.

VER. 81, 82. The Caliph, Omar I. having conquered Ægypt, caused his General to burn the Ptolemean library, on the gates of which was this inscription, ΨΥΧΗΣ ΙΑΤΡΕΙΟΝ, the Physic of the Soul.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 185

His conqu'ring tribes th' Arabian prophet draws,
And saving Ignorance enthrones by Laws.
See Christians, Jews, one heavy Sabbath keep,
And all the western world believe and sleep. 100

Lo! Rome herself, proud mistress now no more
Of arts, but thund'ring against heathen lore ;
Her grey-hair'd Synods damning books unread,
And Bacon trembling for his brazen head.
Padua, with sighs, beholds her Livy burn, 105
And ev'n th' Antipodes Vigilus mourn.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 96. (*The soil that arts and infant letters bore*)
Phœnicia, Syria, &c where Letters are said to have
been invented. In these countries Mahomet began
his conquests.

VER. 102. *thund'ring 'gainst heathen lore ;*] A strong
instance of this pious rage is placed to Pope Gregory's
account. John of Salisbury gives a very odd encomium
of this Pope, at the same time that he mentions one of
the strangest effects of this excess of zeal in him : *Doc-*
tor sanctissimus ille Gregorius, qui mellio prædicationis
imbre totam rigavit & inebriavit ecclesiam ; non modo
Matthesin jussit ab aula, sed, ut traditur a majoribus,
incendio dedit probatæ lectionis scripta, Palatinus quæ-
cumque tenebat Apolli. And in another place : *Fertur*
beatus Gregorius bibliothecam combussisse gentilem ; quo
divinæ paginæ gratior esset locus, & major autoritas,
et diligentia studiosior. Desiderius, Archbishop of Vi-
enna, was sharply reproved by him for teaching Gram-
mar and Literature, and explaining the Poets ; because
(says this Pope) *In uno se ore cum Jovis laudibus Christi*
laudes non capiunt : Et quam grave nefandumque sit
Episcopis canere quod nec Laico religioso conveniat, ipse
considera. He is said, among the rest, to have burned
Livy ; *Quia in superstitionibus et sacris Romanorum*
perpetuo versatur. The same Pope is accused by Vos-
sius, and others, of having caused the noble monu-
ments of the old Roman magnificence to be destroy-

186 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

See, the Cirque falls, th' unpillar'd Temple nods,
 Streets pav'd with Heroes, Tyber choak'd with Gods:
 'Till Peter's keys some christ'ned Jove adorn,
 And Pan to Moses lends his pagan horn ; 110
 See graceless Venus to a Virgin turn'd,
 Or Phidias broken, and Apelles burn'd.

Behold yon' Isle, by Palmers, Pilgrims trod,
 Men bearded, bald, cowl'd, uncowl'd, shod, unshod,
 Peel'd, patch'd, and pyebald, linsley-wolfey brothers,
 Grave Mummers ! sleeveless some, and shirtless others,
 That once was Britain—Happy ! had she seen 117
 No fiercer sons, had Easter never been.

REMARKS.

ed, lest those who came to Rome should give more attention to triumphal Arches, &c. than to holy things. Bayle, Dict.

VER. 109. *'Till Peter's keys some christ'ned Jove adorn,*] After the government of Rome devolved to the Popes, their zeal was for some time exerted in demolishing the Heathen Temples and Satues, so that the Goths scarce destroyed more monuments of Antiquity out of rage, than these out of devotion. At length they spared some of the Temples, by converting them to Churches ; and some of the Statues, by modifying them into images of Saints. In much later times, it was thought necessary to change the statues of Apollo and Pallas, on the tomb of Sannazarius, into David and Judith ; the Lyre easily became a Harp, and the Gorgon's head turned to that of Holofernes.

VER. 117, 118. *Happy!—had Easter never been.*] Wars in England anciently, about the right time of celebrating Easter.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 117, 118.] *Happy!—had Easter never been.*

Et fortunatam, si nunquam armenta fuissent.

Virg. Ecl. vi.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 187

In peace, great Goddess, ever be ador'd ;
How keen the war, if Dulness draw the Sword ! 120
Thus visit not thy own ! on this blest age
Oh spread thy Influence, but restrain thy Rage.

And see, my son ! the hour is on its way,
That lifts our Goddess to imperial sway ;
This fav'rite Isle, long sever'd from her reign, 125
Dove-like, she gathers to her wings again.
Now look thro' Fate ! behold the scene she draws !
What aids, what armies to assert her cause !
See all her progeny, illustrious fight !
Behold, and count them, as they rise to light. 130
As Berecynthia, while her offspring vye
In homage to the mother of the sky.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 126. *Dove-like she gathers*] This is fulfilled in the fourth book.

VER. 128. *What aids, what armies to assert her cause !*] i. e. of Poets, Antiquaries, Critics, Divines, Free-

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 127, 129. *Now look thro' Fate !—See all her Progeny, &c.]*

*Nunc age, Dardanium prolem que deinde sequatur
Gloria, qui maneant Itala de gente nepotes,
Illustres animas, nostrumque in nomen ituras,
Expeditam.* Virg. Æn. vi.

VER. 131. *As Berecynthia, &c.]*

*Felix prole virum, qualis Berecynthia mater
Invehitur curru Phrygiæ turrata per urbes,
Læta deum partu, centum complexa nepotes,
Omnes cælicolas, omnes supera alta tenentes.* Virg. Æn. vi.

138 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Surveys around her, in the blest abode,
 An hundred sons, and ev'ry son a God:
 Not with less glory mighty Dulness crown'd 135
 Shall take thro' Grubstreet her triumphant round;
 And her Parnassus glancing o'er at once,
 Behold an hundred sons, and each a Dunc.

Mark first that youth who takes the foremost place,
 And thrusts his person full into your face. 140
 With all thy Father's virtues blest, be born!
 And a new Cibber shall the stage adorn.

R E M A R K S.

thinkers But as the Revolution is only here set on foot by the first of these classes, the Poets, they only are here particularly celebrated, and they only properly fall under the Care and Review of this Collegue of Dulness, the Laureate. The others, who finish the great work, are reserved for the fourth book, when the Goddess herself appears in full Glory.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 139. *Mark first that youth, &c.]*

*Ille vides, pura juvenis qui nititur basta,
 Proxima sorte tenet lucis loca—* Virg. Æn. vi.

VER. 141. *With all thy Father's virtues blest, be born!]* A manner of expression used by Virgil, Ecl. viii.

Nascere! præque diem veniens, age, Lucifer—

As also that of *patriis virtutibus*, Ecl. iv.

It was very natural to shew to the Hero, before all others, his own Son, who had already begun to emulate him in his theatrical, poetical, and even political capacities. By the attitude in which he here presents himself, the reader may be cautioned against ascribing wholly to the Father the merit of the epithet *Cibberian*, which is equally to be understood with an eye to the Son.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 189

A second see, by meeker manners known,
And modest as the maid that sips alone ;
From the strong fate of drams if thou get free, 145
Another Dursey, Ward ! shall sing in thee.
Thee shall each ale-house, thee each gill-house mourn,
And answer'ing gin-shops sow'rer sighs return.

Jacob, the scourge of Grammar mark with awe,
Nor less revere him, blunderbuss of Law. 150

VARIATIONS.

VER. 149. In the first Edit. it was,
Woolston, the scourge of scripture, mark with awe !
And mighty Jacob, blunderbuss of Law !

REMARKS.

VER. 142. *Jacob, the scourge of Grammar, mark with awe,*] “ This Gentleman is son of a considerable
“ Master of Romsey in Southamptonshire ; and bred
“ to the Law under a very eminent Attorney : Who,
“ between his more laborious studies, has diverted him-
“ self with Poetry. He is a great admirer of poets
“ and their works, which has occasioned him to try

IMITATIONS.

VER. 145. *From the strong fate of drams if thou get free,*]

— *si qua fata aspera rumpas,*
Tu Marcellus eris ! — Virg. Æn. vi.

VER. 147. *Thee shall each Ale-house, &c.*]
Te nemus Angitiæ, vitrea te Fucinus unda,
Te liquidi ssevere lacus. Virg. Æn. viii.

Virgil again, Ecl. x.

Illum etiam lauri, illum ssevere myricæ, &c.

VER. 150. Virg. Æn. vi. — *duo fulmina belli*
Scipiadas, cladem Libyæ !

190 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Lo P—p—le's brow, tremendous to the town,
Horneck's fierce eye, and Roome's funereal frown.

VARIATIONS.

VER. 151. *Lo P—p—le's brow, &c*] In the former Edd.

Haywood, Centlivre, glories of their race,
Lo Horneck's fierce, and Roome's funereal face.

REMARKS.

“ his genius that way.—He has writ in prose the
“ *Lives of the Poets, Essays*, and a great many Law-
“ books, *The Accomplish'd Conveyancer, Modern Jus-*
“ *tice, &c.*” GILES JACOB of himself, *Lives of Po-*
ets, vol. i. He very grossly, and unprovok'd, abused
in that book the Author's Friend, Mr. Gay.

VER. 149, 150.

Jacob, *the scourge of Grammar, mark with awe;*
Nor less revere him, blunderbuss of Law.]

There may seem some error in these verses, Mr. Jacob having proved our Author to have a *Respect* for him, by this undeniable argument. “ He had once a Re-
“ *gard* for my *Judgment*: otherwise he would never
“ have subscribed *Two Guineas* to me, for one small
“ book in octavo.” Jacob's Letter to Dennis, printed in Dennis's Remarks on the Dunciad, p. 49. Therefore I should think the appellation of *Blunderbuss* to Mr. Jacob, like that of *Thunderbolt* to Scipio, was meant in his honour.

Mr. Dennis argues the same way. “ My writings
“ having made great impression on the minds of all
“ sensible men, Mr. P. *repented*, and, to *give proof*
“ *of his Repentance*, subscribed to my two volumes
“ of select Works, and afterwards to my two volumes
“ of Letters.” Ibid. p. 80. We should hence believe that the name of Mr. Dennis hath also crept into this poem by some mistake. But from hence, gentle reader! thou may'st beware, when thou givest thy money to such Authors, not to flatter thyself that thy motives are Good-nature or Charity.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 191

Lo sneering Goode, half malice and half whim,
A Fiend in glee, ridiculously grim.
Each Cygnet sweet, of Bath and Tunbridge race,
Whose tuneful whistling makes the waters pass : 155
Each Songster, Riddler, ev'ry nameless name,
All crowd, who foremost shall be damn'd to Fame.

VARIATIONS.

VER. 157. *Each Songster, Riddler, &c.*]

Lo Bond and Foxton, ev'ry nameless name.

After ver. 158. in the former Edit. followed,

How proud, how pale, how earnest all appear !
How rhymes eternal gingle in their ear !

REMARKS.

VER. 152. *Horneck and Roome*] These two were virulent party-writers, worthily coupled together, and one would think prophetically, since, after the publishing of this piece; the former dying, the latter succeeded him in *Honour and Employment*. The first was Philip Horneck, author of a Billingsgate paper called *The High German Doctor*. Edward Roome was son of an Undertaker for Funerals in Fleet-street, and writ some of the papers called *Pasquin*, where by malicious innuendos he endeavoured to represent our Author guilty of malevolent practices with a great man then under prosecution of Parliament. Of this man was made the following Epigram :

" You ask why Roome diverts you with his jokes,
" Yet if he writes, is dull as other folks ?
" You wonder at it—This, sir, is the case,
" The jest is lost unless he prints his face."

P—le was the author of some vile Plays and Pamphlets. He published abuses on our Author in a paper called the *Prompter*.

192 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Some strain in rhyme ; the Muses, on their racks,
Scream like the winding of ten thousand jacks ; 160
Some free from rhyme or reason, rule or check,
Break Priscian's head, and Pegasus's neck ;
Down, down they larum, with impetuous whirl,
The Pindars, and the Miltons of a Curl. 164

Silence, ye Wolves ! while Ralph to Cynthia howls,
And makes Night hideous—Answer him, ye Owls !

Sense, speech, and measure, living tongues and dead,
Let all give way, and Morris may be read.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 153. *Goode*,] An ill-natur'd Critic, who writ a satire on our Author, called *The mock Æsop*, and many anonymous Libels in News-papers for hire.

VER. 156. *Whose tuneful whistling makes the waters pass :*] There were several successions of these sort of minor poets, at Tunbridge, Bath, &c. singing the praise of the Annuals flourishing for that season ; whose names indeed would be nameless, and therefore the Poet flurs them over with others in general.

VER. 165. *Ralph*] James Ralph, a name inserted after the first editions, not known to our Author till he writ a swearing piece called *Sawney*, very abusive of Dr. Swift, Mr. Gay, and himself. These lines allude to a thing of his, intitled, *Night*, a Poem : This low writer attended his own works with panegyrics in the Journals, and once in particular praised himself highly above Mr. Addison, in wretched remarks upon that author's Account of *English Poets*, printed in a London Journal, Sept. 1728. He was wholly illiterate, and knew no

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 166. *And makes Night hideous*]

—Visit thus the glimpses of the moon,
Making Night hideous—

Shakeſp.

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 193

Flow, Welsted, flow! like thine inspirer, Beer,
 Tho' stale, not ripe; tho' thin, yet never clear; 170
 So sweetly mawkish, and so smoothly dull;
 Heady, not strong; o'erflowing, tho' not full.

REMARKS.

language, not even *French*. Being advised to read the rules of dramatic poetry before he began a play, he smiled and replied, "*Shakespeare* writ without rules." He ended at last in the common sink of all such writers, a political News-paper, to which he was recommended by his friend Arnal, and received a small pittance for pay.

VER. 168. *Morris*,] *Besaleel*, See Book ii.

VER. 169. *Flow Welsted, &c.*] Of this author see the Remark on Book ii. ver. 209. But (to be impartial) add to it the following different character of him:

Mr. *Welsted* had, in his youth, raised so great expectations of his future genius, that there was a kind of struggle between the most eminent in the two Universities, which should have the honour of his education. To compound this, he (*civilly*) became a member of both; and after having passed some time at the one, he removed to the other. From thence he returned to town, where he became the darling Expectation of all the polite writers, whose encouragement he acknowledged in his occasional poems, in a manner that will make no small part of the Fame of his protectors. It also appears from his works, that he was happy in the patronage of the most illustrious characters of the present age—Encouraged by such a Com-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 169. *Flow, Welsted, flow! &c.*] Parody on Denham, *Cooper's Hill*.

O could I flow like thee, and make thy stream
 My great example, as it is my theme:
 Tho' deep, yet clear; tho' gentle, yet not dull;
 Strong without rage; without o'erflowing full!

VOL. V.

I

194 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Ab Dennis! Gildon, ah! what ill starr'd rage
Divides a friendship long confirm'd by age?
Blockheads with reason wicked wits abhor,
But fool with fool is barb'rous civil war.

175

R E M A R K S.

bination in his favour, he—published a book of poems, some in the *Ovidian*, some in the *Horatian* manner, in both which the most exquisite Judges pronounce he even *rival'd his masters*—His Love verses have rescued that way of writing from contempt—In his Translations, he has given us the very soul and spirit of his author. His Ode—his Epistle—his Verses—his Love-tale—all, are the *most perfect things in all poetry*. WELSTED, of *Himself, Char. of the Times*, 8vo. 1728. pag. 23, 24. It should not be forgot to his honour, that he received at one time the sum of 500 pounds for secret service, among the other excellent authors hired to write anonymously for the Ministry. See Report of the Secret Committee, &c. in 1742.

VER. 173. *Ab Dennis! Gildon ab!*] These Men became the public scorn by a mere mistake of their talents. They would needs turn critics of their own country writers (just as Aristotle and Longinus did of theirs) and discourse upon the beauties and defects of composition:

*How parts relate to parts, and they to whole;
The body's harmony, the beaming soul.*

Whereas had they followed the example of those *microscopes of wit*, Kuster, Burman, and their followers, in verbal criticism on the learned languages, their acuteness and industry might have raised them a name equal to the most famous of the Scholiasts. We cannot therefore but lament the late Apostacy of the *Prebendary of Rochester*, who, beginning in so good a train, has now turned short to write comments on the *FIRE-SIDE, DREAMS* upon Shakespear; where we find the spirit of Oldmixon, Gildon, and Dennis, all revived in his belaboured *Observations*. * SCRIBL

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 195

Embrace, embrace, my sons ! be foes no more !

Nor glad vile Poets with true Critics gore.

Behold yon Pair, in strict embraces join'd ;

How like in manners, and how like in mind ! 180

REMARKS.

Here, Scriblerus, in this affair of the FIRE-SIDE, I want thy usual candour. It is true Mr. Upton did write notes upon it, but with all honour and good faith. He took it to be a Panegyric on his Patron. This it is to have to do with wits ; a commerce unworthy a Scholiast of so solid learning. ARIST.

VER. 173. *Ab Dennis! &c.*] The reader, who has been thro' the course of these notes, what a constant attendance Mr. Dennis paid to our Author and all his works, may perhaps wonder he should be mentioned but twice, and so slightly touched, in this poem. But in truth he looked upon him with some esteem, for having (more generously than all the rest) *set his Name* to such writings. He was also a very old man at this time. By his own account of himself in Mr. *Jacob's* *lives*, he must have been above threescore, and happily lived many years after. So that he was senior to

IMITATIONS.

VER. 177. *Embrace, embrace, my sons ! be foes no more !*] Virg. *Æn.* vi.

— *Ne tanta animis assuescite bella,
Neu patriæ validas in viscera vertite vires :
Tuque prior, tu parce—sanguis meus !—*

VER. 179. *Behold yon Pair, in strict embraces join'd ;*] Virg. *Æn.* vi.

— *Ille autem paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis,
Concordes animæ —*

— and in the fifth,

— *Turyalus forma insignis viridique juventa,
Visus amore pio pueri.*

196 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Equal in wit, and equally polite,
Shall this a Pasquin, that a Grumbler write;
Like are their merits, like rewards they share,
That shines a Consul, this Commissioner.

R E M A R K S.

Mr. *Dursey*, who hitherto of all our poets enjoyed the longest bodily life.

VER. 179. *Behold yon Pair, &c.*] One of these was author of a weekly paper called *The Grumbler*, as the other was concerned in another called *Pasquin*, in which Mr. *Pope* was abused with the duke of *Buckingham*, and Bishop of *Rocheſter*. They also joined in a piece againſt his firſt undertaking to tranſlate the *Iliad* intitled *Homerides*, by Sir *Iliad Doggrel*, printed 1715.

Of the other works of theſe Gentlemen the world has heard no more, than it would of Mr. *Pope's*, had their united laudable endeavours diſcouraged him from purſuing his ſtudies. How few good works had ever appeared (ſince men of true merit are always the leaſt preſuming) had there been always ſuch champions to ſtiſe them in their conception? And were it not better for the publick, that a million of monſters ſhould come into the world, which are ſure to die as ſoon as born, than that the ſerpents ſhould ſtrangle one *Hercules* in his Cradle?

The union of theſe two authors gave occaſion to this Epigram,

- “ ——— and Ducket, friends in ſpite,
“ Came hiſſing out in verſe;
“ Both were ſo forward, each would write,
“ So dull, each hung an A—
“ Thus Amphiſcœna (I have read)
“ At either end affails;
“ None knows which leads, or which is led,
“ For both Heads are but Tails.

After many editions of this poem; the Author thought fit to omit the names of theſe two perſons, whoſe injury to him was of ſo old a date, In the verſes he omitted

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 197

" But who is he, in closet close y-pent, 185
 " Of sober face, with learned dust besprent ?"
 Right well mine eyes arede the myster wight,
 On parchment scraps y-fed, and Wormius hight.

REMARKS.

it was said that one of them had a *pious passion* for the other. It was a literal translation of Virgil, *Nisus amore pio pueri*—and there, as in the original, applied to Friendship: That between *Nisus* and *Euryalus* is allowed to make one of the most amiable Episodes in the world, and surely was never interpreted in a perverse sense. But it will astonish the reader to hear, that, on no other occasion than this line, a Dedication was written to that Gentleman to induce him to think something further. " Sir, you are known to have all that affection for the beautiful part of the creation which God and Nature designed.—Sir, you have a very fine Lady—and, Sir, you have eight very fine children,"—&c [*Dedic. to Dennis Rem. on the Rape of the Lock.*] The truth is, the poor Dedicator's brain was turned upon this article: He had taken into his head, that ever since some books were written against the Stage, and since the *Italian Opera* had prevailed, the nation was infected with a vice not fit to be named: He went so far as to print upon the subject, and concludes his argument with this remark, " That he cannot help thinking the Obscenity of Plays excusable at this juncture; since, when that execrable sin is spread so wide, it may be of use to the reducing mens minds to the natural desire of women." DENNIS, *Stage defended* against Mr. Law, p. 20. Our Author solemnly declared, he never heard any creature but the Dedicator mention that Vice and this Gentleman together.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 185. " But who is he, &c.] Virg. *Æn.* vi. questions and answers in this manner of *Numa*:

*Quis procul ille autem ramis insignis olivæ,
 Sacra ferens?—nosco crines, incanaque menta, &c.*

198 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

To future ages may thy dulness last,
As thou preserv'st the dulness of the past!

196

REMARKS.

VER. 184. *That shines a Consul, this Commission-er.*] Such places were given at this time to such sort of writers.

VER. 187. *arede*] *Read*, or *peruse*; though sometimes used for *counsel*. "READE THY READ, take thy Counsaile. Thomas Sternhold, in his translation of the first Psalm into English metre, hath wisely made use of this word,

*The man is blest that hath not bent
To wicked READ his ear.*

"But in the last spurious editions of the singing Psalms the word READ is changed into *men*. I say *spurious* editions, because not only here, but quite throughout the whole book of Psalms, are *strange alterations*, all for the worse; and yet the Title-page stands as it used to do! and all (which is *abominable* in any book, much more in a sacred work) is ascribed to Thomas Sternhold, John Hopkins, and others. I am confident, were Sternhold and Hopkins now living they would proceed against the innovators as cheats.—A liberty, which, to say no more of their intolerable alterations, ought by no means to be permitted or approved of by such as are for *Uniformity*, and have any regard for the *old English Saxon tongue*." HEARNE, Gloss. on Rob. of Glouc. artic. REDE.

I do herein agree with Mr. Hearn: Little is it of avail to object, that such words are become *unintelligible*; since they are *truly English*, men ought to understand them: and such as are for *Uniformity* should think all alterations in a language, *strange, abominable, and unwarrantable*. Rightly therefore, I say again, hath our Poet used ancient words, and poured them forth as a precious ointment upon good old Wormius in this place.

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Ibid. myster wight,] Uncouth mortal.

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 199

There, dim in clouds, the poring Scholiasts mark,
Wits, who, like owls, see only in the dark,
A Lumber-house of books in ev'ry head,
For ever reading, never to be read !

But, where each Science lifts its modern type, 195
Hist'ry her Pot, Divinity her Pipe,
While proud Philosophy repines to show,
Dishonest sight ! his breeches rent below ;
Imbrown'd with native bronze, lo ! Henley stands,
Tuning his voice, and balancing his hands. 200

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 197. In the first Edit. it was,
And proud philosophy with breeches tore,
And English music with a dismal score.
Fast by in darkness palpable inshrind
W—s, B—r, M—n, all the poring kind.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 188. Wormius *hight*] Let not this name, purely fictitious, be conceited to mean the learned *Olaus Wormius* ; much less (as it was unwarrantably foisted into the surreptitious editions) our own Antiquary Mr. *Thomas Hearne*, who had no way aggrieved our Poet, but on the contrary published many curious tracts which he hath to his great contentment perused.

Most rightly are *ancient Words* here employed in speaking of such who so greatly delight in the same. We may say not only rightly, but *wisely*, yea *excellently*, inasmuch as for the like practice the like praise is given by Mr. Hearne himself, Glossar. to Rob. of Gloucester, Artic. BEHETT ; “ Others say BEHIGHT, *promised*, and so it is used *excellently well* by Thomas Norton, in his translation into metre of the cxvith Psalm, ver. 14.

*I to the Lord will pay my vows,
That I to him BEHIGHT.*

Where the modern innovators, not understanding the

200 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

How fluent nonsense trickles from his tongue !
How sweet the periods, neither said, nor sung !

R E M A R K S.

“ propriety of the word (which is truly *English*, from
“ the Saxon) have most *unwarrantably* altered it thus,

*I to the Lord will pay my vows,
With joy and great delight.*

VER. 188. *high*] “ In Cumberland they say to
“ *high*, for to *promise*, or *vow* ; but *HIGHT*, usually
“ signifies *was called*, and so it does in the North even
“ to this day, notwithstanding what is done in Cum-
“ berland,” Hearne, *ibid*.

VER. 192. *Wits, who, like owls, &c.*] These few
lines exactly describe the right verbal critic : The
darker his author is, the better he is pleased ; like the
famous Quack Doctor, who put up in his bills, *be de-
lighted in matters of difficulty*. Some body said well
of these men, that their heads were *Libraries out of
order*.

VER. 199. *lo ! Henley stands, &c.*] J. Henley the
Orator, he preached on the Sundays upon Theologi-
cal matters, and on the Wednesdays upon all other
sciences. Each auditor paid one shilling. He declaimed
some years against the greatest persons, and occasion-
ally did our Author that honour. WELSTED, in
Oratory Transactions, N. 1. published by Henley him-
self, gives the following account of him, “ He was
“ born at Melton-Mowbray in Leicestershire. From
“ his own parish school he went to St. John’s College
“ in Cambridge. He began there to be uneasy ; for
“ it *shocked* him to find he was *commanded to believe*
“ against his own judgment in points of Religion,
“ Philosophy, &c. for his genius leading him freely
“ to *dispute all propositions*, and *call all points to ac-
count*, he was impatient under those fetters of the
“ free-born mind.—Being admitted to Priest’s orders,
“ he found the examination very short and superfi-
“ cial, and that it was not *necessary to conform to the*
“ *Christian religion*, in order either to *Deaconship*, or
“ *Priesthood*.” He came to town, and after having

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 201

Still break the benches, Henley ! with thy strain,
 While Sherlock, Hare, and Gibson preach in vain.
 Oh great Restorer of the good old Stage, 205
 Preacher at once, and Zany of thy age !
 Oh worthy thou of Ægypt's wife abodes,
 A decent priest, where monkeys were the gods !
 But fate with butchers plac'd thy priestly stall,
 Meek modern faith to murder, hack, and mawl ; 210
 And bade thee live, to crown Britannia's praise,
 In Toland's, Tindal's, and in Woolston's days.

Yet oh, my sons, a father's words attend :
 (So may the fates preserve the ears you lend)

R E M A R K S.

for some years been a writer for Bookfellers, he had an ambition to be so for Ministers of state. The only reason he did not rise in the Church, we are told, " was the envy of others, and a disrelish entertained " of him, because *he was not qualified to be a compleat " Spaniel.*" However, he offered the service of his pen to two great men, of opinions and interests directly opposite ; by both of whom being rejected, he set up a new project, and styled himself the *Restorer of ancient eloquence.* He thought " it as lawful to " take a Licence from the King and Parliament at one " Place, as another ; at Hickee's hall, as at Doctors " commons ; so set up his Oratory in Newport market, Butcher-row. There (says his friend) he had " the assurance to form a plan, which no mortal ever " thought of ; he had success against all opposition ; " challenged his adversaries to fair disputations, and " none would dispute with him ; writ, read, and studied twelve hours a day ; composed three dissertations a week on all subjects ; undertook to teach in " one year what schools and Universities teach in five ; " was not terrified by menaces, insults, or satires, but " still proceeded, matured his bold scheme, and put, " the Church, and all that in danger." WILSTED, Narrative in Orat. Transact. N. L.

'Tis yours a Bacon or a Locke to blame, 215
 A Newton's genius, or a Milton's flame :
 But oh ! with One, immortal One dispense ;
 The source of Newton's Light, of Bacon's Sense.
 Content, each Emanation of his fires
 That beams on earth, each Virtue he inspires, 220
 Each Art he prompts, each Charm he can create,
 Whate'er he gives, are giv'n for you to hate.
 Persist, by all divine in Man unaw'd,
 But, " Learn, ye DUNCES ! not to scorn your God."

REMARKS.

After having stood some Prosecutions, he turned his rhetoric to buffoonry upon all public and private occurrences. All this passed in the same room ; where sometimes he broke jests, and sometimes that bread which he called the *Primitive Eucharist*.—This wonderful person struck Medals, which he dispersed as Tickets to his Subscribers : The device, a Star rising to the meridian, with this motto, AD SUMMA ; and below, INVENIAM VIAM AVT FACIAM. This man had an hundred pounds a year given him for the secret service of a weekly paper of unintelligible nonsense, called the Hyp Doctor.

VER. 204. *Sherlock, Hare, Gibson,*] Bishops of Salisbury, Chichester, and London ; whose Sermons and Pastoral Letters did honour to their country, as well as stations.

VER. 212. *Of Toland and Tindal,* see book ii.] *The Woolston* was an impious madman, who wrote in a most insolent style against the miracles of the Gospel, in the years 1726, &c.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 224.—*Learn, ye Dunces ! not to scorn your God.]*

Discite justitiam moniti, & non temnere divos. Virg.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 203

Thus he, for then a ray of Reason stole 225
 Half thro' the solid darkness of his soul;
 But soon the cloud return'd—and thus the Sire:
 See now, what Dulness and her sons admire!
 See what the charms, that smite the simple heart
 Not touch'd by Nature, and not reach'd by Art. 230
 His never-blushing head he turn'd aside,
 (Not half so pleas'd when Goodman prophecy'd)

R E M A R K S.

VER. 213. *Yet ob, my sons, &c.*] The caution against Blasphemy, here given by a departed Son of Dulness to his yet existing brethren, is, as the Poet rightly intimates, not out of tenderness to the ears of others, but their own. And so we see that when that danger is removed, on the open establishment of the Goddess in the fourth Book, she encourages her sons, and they beg assistance to pollute the Source of Light itself, with the same virulence they had before done the purest emanations from it. W.

VER. 215. *'Tis yours, a Bacon or a Locke to blame,*

A NEWTON's genius, or a Milton's flame:

Thankfully received, and freely used, is this gracious licence by the beloved disciple of that Prince of Cabalistic dunces, the tremendous Hutchinson. Hear with what honest plainness he treateth our great Geometer. "As to mathematical demonstration (saith he) founded upon the Proportions of lines and circles to each other, and the ringing of changes upon figures, these have no more to do with the greatest part of philosophy, than they have with the Man in the Moon. Indeed, the Zeal for this sort of Gibberish [*Mathematical principles*] is greatly abated of late, and though it is now upwards of twenty years that the Dragon of modern Philosophers, SIR ISAAC NEWTON, has lain with his face upon the ground before the Ark of God, *Scripture-philosophy*; for so long MOSES'S PRINCIPIA have been published; and the Treatise of *Power essential and mechanical*, in which Sir Isaac Newton"

204 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

And look'd, and saw a sable Sorc'rer rise,
Swift to whose hand a winged volume flies :
All sudden, Gorgons hiss, and Dragons glare, 235
And ten horn'd fiends and Giants rush to war.
Hell rises, Heav'n descends, and dance on Earth :
Gods, imps, and monsters, music, rage, and mirth.
A fire, a jigg, a battle, and a ball,
'Till one wide conflagration swallows all. 240

Thence a new world to Nature's laws unknown,
Breaks out refulgent, with a heav'n its own :
Another Cynthia her new journey runs,
And other planets circle other suns.
The forests dance, the rivers upward rise, 245
Whales sport in woods, and dolphins in the skies :

R E M A R K S.

" Philosophy is treated with the UTMOST CONTEMPT,
" has been published a dozen years ; yet is there not
" one of the whole Society who hath had the Cou-
" rage to attempt to raise him up. And so let him
" lye."—*The Philosophical principles of Moses asserted*,
8c. p. 2. by JULIUS BATE, A. M. Chaplain to the
Right Honourable the Earl of Harrington, Lond. 1744,
8vo. SCRIBL.

VER. 224. But, " learn, ye Dunces ! not to scorn
your God."] The hardest lesson a Duncce can learn. For
being bred to scorn what he does not understand, that
which he understands least he will be apt to scorn most.
Of which, to the disgrace of all Government, and (in

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 244. *And other planets*]

—*solemque suum, sua sidera norunt*— Virg. *Æn.* vi.

VER. 246. *Whales sport in woods, and dolphins in the
skies,*

Delphinum sylvis appingit, fluctibus aprum. Hor.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 205

And last, to give the whole creation grace,
Lo! one vast egg produces human race.

Joy fills his soul, joy innocent of thought;
What pow'r, he cries, what pow'r these wonders
wrought? 250

Son; what thou seek'st is in thee! Look and find
Each monster meets his likeness in thy mind.
Yet would'st thou more? in yonder cloud behold,
Whose sarsnet skirts are edg'd with flamy gold,
A matchless youth! his nod these worlds controuls,
Wings the red lightning, and the thunder rolls. 256

REMARKS.

the Poet's opinion) even of that of DULNESS herself, we have had a late example in a book intituled, *Philosophical Essays concerning human Understanding*.

VER. 224. "not to scorn your God."] See this subject pursued in Book iv.

VER. 232. (*Not half so pleas'd when Goodman prophes'd*) Mr. Cibber tells us, in his life, p. 149. that Goodman being at the rehearsal of a play, in which he had a part, clapped him on the shoulder and cried, "If he does not make a good actor, I'll be d—d.—" And (says Mr. Cibber) I make it a question, whether Alexander himself, or Charles the twelfth of Sweden, when at the head of their first victorious armies, could feel a greater transport in their bo-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 251. Son; what thou seek'st is in thee!]

Quod petis in te est —

— *Ne te quæsieris extra.*

Perf.

VER. 256. *Wings the red light'ning, &c.*] Like Salomoneus in *Æn.* vi.

Dum flammas Jovis, & sonitus imitatur Olympi.

— *nimbos, & non imitabile fulmen,*

Ære & cornipedum cursu simularat equorum.

206 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Angel of Dulness, sent to scatter round
Her magic charms o'er all unclassic ground :
Yon stars, yon suns, he rears at pleasure higher,
Flumes their light, and sets their flames on fire. 260
Immortal Rich ! how calm he sits at ease
'Mid snows of paper, and fierce hail of pease ;
And proud his Mistress' orders to perform,
Rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm.

R E M A R K S.

“foms than I did in mine.”

VER. 233. *a sable Sorc'rer*] Dr. Faustus, the subject of a set of farces, which lasted in vogue two or three seasons, in which both Playhouses strove to outdo each other for some years. All the extravagancies in the sixteen lines following were introduced on the Stage, and frequented by persons of the first quality in England, to the twentieth and thirtieth time.

VER. 237. *Hell rises, Heav'n descends, and dance on Earth:*] This monstrous absurdity was actually represented in Tibbald's Rape of Proserpine.

VER. 248. *Lo! one vast Egg*] In another of these Farces, Harlequin is hatched upon the stage out of a large Egg,

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 258.—*o'er all unclassic ground:*] Alludes to Mr. Addison's verse, in the praises of Italy :

*Poetic fields encompass me around,
And still I seem to tread on classic ground.*

As ver. 264 is a parody on a noble one of the same author in The Campaign ; and ver. 259, 260. on two sublime verses of Dr. Y.

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 207

But lo ! to dark encounter in mid air 265
 New wizards rise ; I see my Cibber there !
 Booth in his cloudy tabernacle shrin'd,
 On grinning dragons thou shalt mount the wind.
 Dire is the conflict, dismal is the din,
 Here shouts all Drury, there all Lincoln's-inn ; 270
 Contending Theatres our empire raise,
 Alike their labours, and alike their praise.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 261. *Immortal Rich !*] Mr. John Rich, Master of the Theatre-Royal in Covent-garden, was the first that excelled this way.

VER. 266. *I see my Cibber there !*] The history of the foregoing absurdities is verified by himself, in these words (Life, chap. xv.) “ Then sprung forth that succession of monstrous medleys that have so long infested the stage, which arose upon one another alternately at both houses, out-vying each other in expence.” He then proceeds to excuse his own part in them, as follows : “ If I am asked why I assented ? I have no better excuse for my error than to confess I did it against my conscience, and had not virtue enough to starve. Had Henry IV of France a better for changing his Religion ? I was still in my heart, as much as he could be, on the side of Truth and Sense ; but with this difference, that I had their leave to quit them when they could not support me.—But let the question go which way it will, Harry IVth has *always been allowed a great man.*” This must be confessed a full answer, only the question still seems to be, 1. How the doing a thing against one's conscience is an excuse for it ? and, 2dly, It will be hard to prove how he got the leave of Truth and Sense to quit their service, unless he can produce a Certificate that he ever was in it.

208 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

And are these wonders, Son, to thee unknown?
Unknown to thee? these wonders are thy own.

VARIATIONS.

After Ver. 274. In the former Edd followed,

For works like these let deathless Journals tell
"None but thyself can be thy parallel."

Var. *None but thyself can be thy parallel*] A marvelous line of *Theobald*; unless the Play called the *Double Falshood* be (as he would have it believed) *Shakespeare's*: But whether this line be his or not, he proves *Shakespeare* to have written as bad, (which, methinks, in an author, for whom he has a Veneration almost rising to *Idolatry*, might have been concealed) as for example,

Try what *Repentance* can: what can it not?
But what can it, when one cannot *repent*?

——— For *Cogitation*

Resides not in the man who does not *think*, &c.

It is granted they are all of a piece, and no man doubts but herein he is able to imitate *Shakespeare*.

Var. id. The former Annotator seeming to be of opinion that the *Double Falshood* is not *Shakespeare's*; it is but justice to give Mr. *Theobald's* arguments to the contrary: First, that the MS. was above sixty years old: Secondly, that once Mr. *Betterton* had it, or he hath heard so: Thirdly, that some-body told him the author gave it to a bastard daughter of his: but Fourthly, and above all, "That he has a great mind every thing that is good in our tongue should be *Shakespeare's*." I allow these reasons to be truly critical; but what I am infinitely concerned at is, that so many Errors have escaped the learned Editor: a few whereof we shall here amend, out of a much great number, as an instance of our regard to this dear relic.

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 209

These Fate reserv'd to grace thy reign divine, 275
Foreseen by me, but ah! with-held from mine.

VARIATIONS.

ACT I. SCENE I.

I have his letters of a modern date,
Wherein by *Julio*, *good Camillo's* son
(Who as he says, [] shall follow hard upon,
And whom I with the growing hour [] expect)
He doth solicit the return of gold,
To purchase certain horse that *like him well*.

This place is corrupted: the epithet *good* is a meer insignificant expletive, but the alteration of that single word restores a clear light to the whole context, thus,

I have his letters of a modern date,
Wherein, by *July*, (*by Camillo's* son,
Who, as he *saieth*, shall follow hard upon,
And whom I with the growing hours expect)
He doth solicit the return of gold.

Here you have not only the *Person* specified, by whose hands the return was to be made, but the most necessary part, the *Time* by which it was required. *Camillo's* son was to follow hard upon—What? Why upon *July*—*Horse that likes him well*, is very absurd: Read it without contradiction,

——Horse, that *he likes well*.

ACT I. at the End.

——I must stoop to gain her,
Throw all my gay *Comparisons* aside,
And turn my proud additions out of service:

saith Henriquez of a maiden of low condition, objecting his high quality: What have his *Comparisons* here to do? Correct it boldly,

Throw all my gay *caparisons* aside,
And turn my proud additions out of service.

210 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

In Lud's old walls tho' long I rul'd, renown'd
Far as loud Bow's stupendous bells resound ;

V A R I A T I O N S.

ACT II. SCENE I.

All the verse of this Scene is confounded with prose :

———O that a man

Could reason down this *Feaver* of the blood,
Or sooth with *words* the tumult in his heart !

Then *Julio*, I might be *indeed* thy Friend.

Read —this *fervor* of the blood,

Then *Julio*, I might be in *deed* thy friend.

marking the just opposition of deeds and words.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

How his eyes *shake* fire !—said by *Violante*, observing how the lustful shepherd looks at her. It must be, as the sense plainly demands,

———How his eyes *take* fire !

And measure every piece of youth about me !

Ibid. That tho' I *wore disguises* for some ends.

She had but one disguise, and wore it but for one end,
Restore it with the alteration but of two letters,

That, tho' I were *disguised* for some end.

ACT IV. SCENE II.

———To oaths no more give credit,

To tears, to vows ; false *both* !

False Grammar I'm sure. *Both* can relate but to *true* things : and see how easy a change sets it right :

To tears, to vows, false *troth* !———

I could shew you that very word *Troth*, in *Shakespeare*, a hundred times.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 211

Tho' my own Aldermen conferr'd the bays,
 To me committing their eternal praise, 280
 Their full-fed Heroes, their pacific May'rs
 Their annual trophies, and their monthly wars :
 Tho' long my Party built on me their hopes,
 For writing Pamphlets, and for roasting Popes ;
 Yet lo ! in me what authors have to brag on ! 285
 Reduc'd at last to his in my own dragon.
 Avert it, Heav'n ! that thou, my Cibber, e'er
 Should'st wag a serpent-tail in Smithfield fair !

V A R I A T I O N S.

Ibid. For there is nothing left thee now to look for
 That can bring *comfort*, but a *quiet grave*.

This I fear is of a piece with *None but itself can be its parallel*: for the grave *puts an end* to all sorrow, it can then need no *comfort*. Yet let us vindicate *Shakespeare* where we can : I make no doubt he wrote thus,

For there is nothing left thee now to look for,
Nothing that can bring *quiet*, but the grave.

Which reduplication of the word gives a much stronger emphasis to *Violante's* concern. This figure is called *Anadyptosis*. I could shew you a hundred just such in him, if I had nothing else to do. SCRIBL.

After ver. 284. in the former Edd. followed,

Diffrent our parties, but with equal grace
 The Goddess smiles on Whig and Tory race.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 266, 267. *Booth* and *Cibber* were joint managers of the Theatre in Drury-lane.

VER. 268. *On grinning dragons thou shalt mount the wind*] In his Letter to Mr. P. Mr. C. solemnly declares this not to be *literally true*. We hope therefore, the reader will understand it *allegorically* only.

212 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Like the vile straw that's blown about the streets,
 The needy Poet sticks to all he meets, 290
 Coach'd, carted, trod upon, now loose, now fast,
 And carry'd off in some Dog's tail at last.
 Happier thy fortunes ! like a rolling stone,
 Thy giddy dulness still shall lumber on,
 Safe in its heaviness, shall never stray, 295
 But lick up ev'ry blockhead in the way.
 Thee shall the Patriot, thee the Courtier taste,
 And ev'ry year be duller than the last.

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 295. *Safe in its heaviness, &c.*] In the former Edd.

Too safe in inborn heaviness to stray ;
 And lick up ev'ry blockhead in the way.
 Thy Dragons, Magistrates, and Peers shall taste,
 And from each shew rise duller than the last.
 Till rais'd from booths, &c.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 282. *Annual trophies*, on the Lord-mayor's day ; and *monthly wars* in the Artillery-ground.

VER. 283. *Tho' long my Party*] Settle, like most Party-writers, was very uncertain in his political principles. He was employed to hold the pen in the *Character* of a *papish successor*, but afterwards printed his *Narrative* on the other side. He had managed the ceremony of a famous Pope-burning on Nov. 17, 1680. then became a trooper in King James's army, at Hounslow-heath. After the Revolution he kept a booth at Bartholomew-fair, where, in the droll called *St. George for England*, he acted in his old age in a Dragon of green leather of his own invention ; he was at last taken into the Charter-house, and there died, aged sixty years.

VER. 297. *Thee shall the Patriot, thee the Courtier taste,*] It stood in the first edition with blanks, ** and

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 213

Till rais'd from booths, to Theatre, to Court,
 Her seat imperial Dulness shall transport. 300
 Already Opera prepares the way,
 The sure fore-runner of her gentle sway :
 Let her thy heart, next Drabs and Dice, engage,
 The third mad passion of thy doting age.
 Teach thou the warbling Polypheme to roar, 305
 And scream thyself as none e'er scream'd before !
 To aid our cause, if Heav'n thou can'st not bend,
 Hell thou shalt move ; for Faustus is our friend :
 Pluto with Cato thou for this shalt join,
 And link the Mourning Bride to Proserpine. 310

R E M A R K S.

**. Concanen was sure " they must needs mean no
 " body but *King GEORGE* and *Queen CAROLINE* ;
 " and said he would insist it was so, till the Poet clear-
 " ed himself by filling up the blanks otherwise, agree-
 " ably to the context, and consistent with his *alle-*
 " *giance*." Pref. to a Collection of verses, essays,
 letters, &c. against Mr. P. printed for A. Moore, p. 6.

VER. 305. *Polypheme*] He translated the Italian Ope-
 ra of Polifemo ; but unfortunately lost the whole jest
 of the story. The Cyclops asks Ulysses his *name*, who
 tells him his name is *Noman* ; After his eye is put out,
 he roars and calls the Brother Cyclops to his aid :
 They enquire *who has hurt him* ? he answers *Noman* ;
 whereupon they all go away again. Our ingenious
 Translator made Ulysses answer, *I take no name*,
 whereby all that followed became unintelligible. Hence
 it appears that Mr. Cibber (who values himself on
 subscribing to the English Translation of Homer's
Iliad) had not that merit with respect to the *Odyssey*,
 or he might have been better instructed in the Greek
Pun-nology.

VER, 308, 309. *Faustus, Plute, &c.*] Names of mi-
 serable Farces, which it was the custom to act at the
 end of the best Tragedies, to spoil the digestion of the
 audience.

214 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Grubstreet ! thy fall should men and Gods conspire,
Thy stage shall stand, ensure it but from Fire.

Another Æschylus appears ! prepare
For new abortions, all ye pregnant fair !
In flames, like Semele's, be brought to bed, 315
While op'ning Hell spouts wild-fire at your head.

Now, Bavius, take the poppy from thy brow,
And place it here ! here all ye Heroes bow !
This, this is he, foretold by ancient rhymes :
Th' Augustus born to bring Saturnian times. 320
Signs following signs lead on the mighty year !
See ! the dull stars roll round and re-appear.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 312. *ensure it but from Fire.*] In Tibbald's farce of Proserpine, a corn-field was set on fire : whereupon the other play-house had a barn burnt down for the recreation of the spectators. They also rival'd each other in showing the burnings of hell-fire, in Dr. Faustus.

VER. 313. *Another Æschylus appears !*] It is reported of Æschylus, that when his Tragedy of the Furies was acted, the audience were so terrified that the children fell into fits, and the big-bellied women miscarried.

VER. 315. *like Semele's, &c.*] See Ovid, Met. iii.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 319, 320. *This, this is he, foretold by ancient
Th' Augustus, &c.* (rhymes,

*Hic vir, hic est ! tibi quem promitti sæpius audis,
Augustus Cæsar, divum genus ; aurea condet
Secula qui rursus Latio, regnata per arva
Saturno quondam*——— Virg. Æn. vi.

Saturnian here relates to the age of *Lead*, mentioned Book i. ver. 26.

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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 215

See, see, our own true Phœbus wears the bays !

Our Midas sits Lord Chancellor of Plays !

On Poets Tombs see Benson's titles writ !

325

Lo ! Ambrose Philips is preferr'd for Wit !

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 323. *See, see, our own, &c.*] In the former Edd.

Beneath his reign shall Eusden wear the bays,
Cibber preside Lord Chancellor of plays,
Benson sole Judge of Architecture sit,
And Namby Pamby be preferr'd for Wit !
I see th' unfinish'd Dormitory wall,
I see the Savoy totter to her fall ;
Hibernian Politics, O Swift ! thy doom,
And Pope's, translating three whole years with
Proceed great days, &c. (Broome :

R E M A R K S.

VER. 325. *On Poets Tombs see Benson's Titles writ ;*] W—m Benson (Surveyor of the Buildings to his Majesty King George I.) gave in a report to the Lords, that their House and the Painted-chamber adjoining were in immediate danger of falling. Whereupon the Lords met in a committee to appoint some other place to sit in, while the House should be taken down. But it being proposed to cause some other builders first to inspect it, they found it in very good condition. The Lords, upon this, were going upon an address to the King against Benson for such a misrepresentation ; but the earl of Sunderland, then secretary, gave them an assurance that his Majesty would remove him, which was done accordingly. In favour of this man, the famous Sir Christopher Wren, who had been Architect to the crown for above fifty years, who built most of the Churches in London, laid the first stone of St. Paul's, and lived to finish it, had been displaced from his employment, at the age of near ninety years.

216 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

See under Ripley rise a new White-hall,
While Jones' and Boyle's united Labours fall:
While Wren with sorrow to the grave descends,
Gay dies unpension'd with a hundred friends, 330

R E M A R K S.

VER. 326. *Ambrose Philips*] "He was (saith Mr. JACOB) one of the Wits at Burton's, and a justice of the peace; but he hath since met with higher pre-ferment in Ireland:" and a much greater character we have of him in Mr. Gildon's *Complete Art of Poetry*, vol. i. p. 157. "Indeed he confesses, he dares not set him quite on the same foot with *Virgil*, lest it should seem flattery; but he is much mistaken if posterity does not afford him a greater esteem than he at present enjoys." He endeavoured to create some misunderstanding between our Author and Mr. Addison, whom also soon after he abused as much. His constant cry was, that Mr. P. was an *Enemy to the government*; and in particular he was the avowed author of a report very industriously spread, that he had a hand in a Party-paper called the *Examiner*: A falsehood well known to those yet living, who had the direction and publication of it.

VER. 328. *While Jones' and Boyle's united labours fall:*] At the time when this poem was written, the banquetting-house at White-hall, the church and piazza of Covent-garden, and the palace and chapel of Somerset-house, the works of the famous Inigo Jones, had been for many years so neglected, as to be in danger of ruin. The portico of Covent-garden church had been just then restored and beautified at the expence of the earl of Burlington; who, at the same time, by his publication of the designs of that great Master and Palladio, as well as by many noble buildings of his own, revived the true taste of Architecture in this kingdom.

VER. 330. *Gay dies unpension'd, &c.*] See Mr. Gay's fable of the *Hare and many Friends*. This gentleman was early in the friendship of our Author, which continued to his death. He wrote several works of humour

Book I
Hiberni
And Pop

VER.

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Vol. V.

Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 217

Hibernian Politics, O Swift! thy fate;
And Pope's, ten years to comment and translate.

V A R I A T I O N S.

VER. 331. in the former Editions thus,

—— O Swift! thy doom,

And Pope's, translating ten whole years with Broome.

On which was the following Note, " He concludes
" his irony with a stroke upon himself; for whoever
" imagines this a sarcasm on the other ingenious per-
" son is surely mistaken. The opinion our Author
" had of him was sufficiently shewn by his joining
" him in the undertaking of the *Odyssey*; in which
" Mr. Broome, having engaged without any previous
" agreement, discharged his part so much to Mr. Pope's
" satisfaction, that he gratified him with the full sum
" of *Five hundred pounds*, and a present of all those
" books for which his own interest could procure him
" subscribers, to the value of *One hundred more*. The
" Author only seems to lament, that he was employed
" in Translation at all."

R E M A R K S.

with great success, the Shepherd's Week, Trivia, the
What-d'ye-call-it, Fables; and, lastly, the celebrated
Beggars's Opera; a piece of satire which hits all tastes
and degrees of men, from those of the highest quality
to the very rabble: That verse of Horace,

Primores populi arripuit, populumque tributim,

could never be so justly applied as to this. The vast
success of it was unprecedented, and almost incredible:
What is related of the wonderful effects of the ancient
music or tragedy hardly came up to it: Sophocles and
Euripides were less followed and famous. It was acted
in London sixty-three days, uninterrupted; and re-
newed the next season with equal applauses. It spread
into all the great towns of England, was play'd in
many places to the thirtieth and fortieth time, at Bath

218 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Proceed, great days! till Learning fly the shore,
'Till Birch shall blush with noble blood-no more,
'Till Thames fees Eton's sons for ever play, 335
'Till Westminster's whole year be holiday,

REMARKS.

and Bristol fifty, &c. It made its progress into Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where it was performed twenty-four days together: It was last acted in Minorca. The fame of it was not confined to the Author only; the ladies carried about with them the favourite songs of it in fans; and houses were furnished with it in screens. The person who acted Polly, till then obscure, became all at once the favourite of the town; her pictures were engraved, and sold in great numbers; her life written, books of letters and verses to her published; and pamphlets made even of her sayings and jests.

Furthermore, it drove out of England, for that season, the Italian Opera, which had carried all before it for ten years. That idol of the Nobility and people, which the great Critic Mr. Dennis by the labours and outcries of a whole life could not overthrow, was demolished by a single stroke of this gentleman's pen. This happened in the year 1728. Yet so great was his modesty, that he constantly prefixed to all the editions of it this motto, *Nos hæc novimus esse nihil*.

VER. 331. *Hibernian Politics*, O Swift! thy fate;
See Book i. ver. 26.

VER. 332. *And Pope's, ten years to comment and translate.*] The Author here plainly laments that he was so long employed in translating and commenting. He began the Iliad in 1713, and finished it in 1719. The edition of Shakespear (which he undertook merely because no body else would) took up near two years more in the drudgery of comparing impressions, rectifying the Scenery, &c. and the translation of half the Odyssey employed him from that time to 1725.

VER. 333. *Proceed, great days! &c.*] It may perhaps seem incredible, that so great a Revolution in Learning as is here prophesied, should be brought about by such

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Ibid. P
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Book III. THE DUNCIAD. 219

'Till Isis' Elders reel, their pupils sport,
And Alma mater lie dissolv'd in Port!

VARIATIONS.

After ver. 338. in the first Edit. were the following lines,

Then when these signs declare the mighty year,
When the dull stars roll round and re-appear;
Let there be Darknes! (the dread pow'r shall say)
All shall be darkness, as it ne'er was day;
To their first Chaos Wit's vain works shall fall,
And universal darkness cover all.

REMARKS.

weak instruments as have been [hitherto] described in our Poem: But do not thou, gentle reader, rest too secure in thy contempt of these Instruments. Remember what the Dutch stories somewhere relate, that a great part of their Provinces was once overflowed, by a small opening made in one of their dykes by a single *Water-Rat*.

However, that such is not seriously the judgment of our Poet, but that he conceiveth better hopes from the Diligence of our Schools, from the Regularity of our Universities, the Discernment of our Great men, the Accomplishments of our Nobility, the Encouragement of our Patrons, and the Genius of our Writers in all kinds (notwithstanding some few exceptions in each) may plainly be seen from his conclusion; where causing all this vision to pass through the Ivory Gate, he expressly, in the language of Poesy, declares all such imaginations to be wild, ungrounded, and fictitious.

SCRIBL.

Ibid. *Proceed great days! &c. Till Birch shall blush &c.* Another great prophet of Dulness, on this side Styx, promiseth those days to be near at hand. *The Devil* (saith he) *licensed Bishops to license Masters of Schools to instruct youth in the knowledge of the heathen Gods, their religion, &c. The Schools and Universities will soon be tired and ashamed of Classics and such trumpery.* HUTCHINSON'S *Use of Reason recovered*, SCRIBL.

220 THE DUNCIAD. Book III.

Enough! enough! the raptur'd Monarch cries;
And thro' the Ivory Gate the Vision flies. 340

IMITATIONS.

VER. 340. *And thro' the Ivory Gate, &c.*]

*Sunt geminae somni portæ; quarum altera fertur
Cornea, qua veris facilis datur exitus umbris;
Altera candenti perfecta nitens elephanto,
Sed falsa ad cælum mittunt insomnia manes.*

Virg. Æn. vi.

The End of the THIRD BOOK,

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T H E
D U N C I A D :

B O O K T H E F O U R T H .

A R G U M E N T .

The Poet being, in this Book, to declare the Completion of the Prophecies mentioned at the end of the former, makes a new Invocation ; as the greater Poets are wont, when some high and worthy matter is to be sung. He shews the Goddess coming in her Majesty, to destroy Order and Science, and to substitute the Kingdom of the Dull upon earth. How she leads captive the Sciences, and silence the Muses, and what they be who succeed in their stead. All her Children, by a wonderful attraction, are drawn about her ; and hear along with them divers others, who promote her Empire by connivance, weak resistance, or discouragement of Arts ; such as Half wits, tasteless Admirers, vain Pretenders, the Flatterers of Dunces, or the Patrons of them. All these crowd round her ; one of them offering to approach her is driven back by a Rival, but she commends and encourages both. The first who speak in form are the Geniuses of the Schools, who assure her of their care to advance her Cause, by confining Youth to Words, and keeping them out of the way of

real Knowledge. Their Address, and her gracious Answer; with her Charge to them and the Universities. The Universities appear by their proper Deputies, and assure her that the same method is observed in the progress of Education. The speech of Aristarchus on this subject. They are drawn off by a band of young Gentlemen returned from Travel with their Tutors; one of whom delivers to the Goddess, in a polite oration, an account of the whole Conduct and Fruits of their Travels: presenting to her at the same time a young Nobleman perfectly accomplished. She receives him graciously, and indues him with the happy quality of Want of Shame. She sees loitering about her a number of Indolent Persons abandoning all business and duty, and dying with laziness: To these approaches the Antiquary Annius, intreating her to make them Virtuoso's, and assign them over to him: But Mummius, another Antiquary, complaining of his fraudulent proceeding, she finds a method to reconcile their difference. Then enter a troop of people fantastically adorned, offering her strange and exotic presents: Amongst them one stands forth and demands justice on another, who had deprived him of one of the greatest Curiosities in nature; but he justifies himself so well, that the Goddess gives them both her approbation. She recommends to them to find proper employment for the Indolents before-mentioned, in the study of Butter-flies, Shells, Birds-nests, Moss, &c. but with particular caution, not to proceed beyond Trifles, to any useful or extensive views of Nature, or of the Author of Nature. Against the last of these apprehensions, she is secured by a hearty address from the Minute Philosophers and Freethinkers, one of whom speaks in the name of the rest. The Youth, thus instructed and principled, are delivered to her in a body, by the hands of Silenus, and then admitted to taste the cup of the Magus her High Priest, which causes a total oblivion of all Obligations, divine, civil, moral, or rational. To these her Adepts she sends Priests, Attendants, and Comforters, of various kinds; confers on them Orders and Degrees; and then dismiss-

A R G U M E N T.

223

*ing them with a speech, confirming to each his Privi-
leges, and telling what she expects from each, concludes
with a Yawn of extraordinary virtue: The Progress
and Effects whereof on all Orders of men, and the
Consummation of all, in the restoration of Night
and Chaos, conclude the Poem.*

K 4

B O O K IV.

YET, yet a moment, one dim Ray of Light
 Indulge, dread Chaos, and eternal Night !
 Of darkness visible so much be lent,
 As half to shew, half veil the deep Intent.
 Ye Pow'rs ! whose Mysteries restor'd I sing,
 To whom Time bears me on his rapid wing,

R E M A R K S.

The DUNCIAD, Book IV.] This Book may properly be distinguished from the former, by the Name of the GREATER DUNCIAD, not so indeed in Size, but in Subject ; and so far contrary to the distinction anciently made of the *Greater* and *Lesser Iliad*. But much are they mistaken who imagine this Work in any wise inferior to the former, or of any other hand than of our Poet ; of which I am much more certain than that the *Iliad* itself was the work of *Solomon*, or the *Batrachomyomachia* of *Homer*, as *Barnes* hath affirmed.

BENT. P. W.

VER. 1, &c.] This is an Invocation of much Piety. The Poet, willing to approve himself a genuine Son, beginneth by shewing (what is ever agreeable to *Dulness*) his high respect for *Antiquity* and a *Great Family*, how dead or dark soever : Next declareth his passion for explaining Mysteries ; and lastly, his impatience to be *re united* to her.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 2. *dread Chaos, and eternal Night !*] Invoked, as the Restoration of their Empire is the Action of the Poem.

P. W.

VER. 4. *half to shew, half veil the deep Intent.*] This is a great propriety ; for a dull Poet can never express himself otherwise than by *halves*, or imperfectly.

SCRIBL. P. W.

I understand it very differently ; the Author in this work had indeed a *deep Intent* ; there were in it *Myste-*

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 225

Suspend a while your Force inertly strong,
Then take at once the Poet and the Song.

Now flam'd the Dog-star's unpropitious ray,
Smote ev'ry Brain, and wither'd ev'ry Bay;
Sick was the Sun, the Owl forsook his bow'r,
The moon-struck Prophet felt the madding hour.

REMARKS.

ries or ἀποκρίματα which he durst not fully reveal, and doubtless in divers verses (according to Milton)

—more is meant than meets the ear. BENT. P. W.

VER. 6. *To whom Time bears me on his rapid wing,*] Fair and softly, good Poet! (cries the gentle *Scriblerus* on this place.) For sure, in spite of his unusual modesty, he shall not travel so fast towards Oblivion, as divers others of more confidence have done: For when I revolve in my mind the Catalogue of those who have the most boldly promised to themselves Immortality, viz. *Pindar, Luis Gongora, Ronsard, Oldham, Lyrics; Lycophron, Statius, Chapman, Blackmore*, Heroics; I find the one half to be already dead, and the other in utter darkness. But it becometh not us, who have taken up the office of his Commentator, to suffer our Poet thus prodigally to cast away his Life; contrariwise, the more hidden and abstruse is his work, and the more remote its beauties from common Understanding, the more is it our duty to draw forth and exalt the same, in the face of Men and Angels. Herein shall we imitate the laudable Spirit of those, who have (for this very reason) delighted to comment on *dark and uncouth* authors, and even on their *darker* Fragments; preferred *Ennius* to *Virgil*, and chosen to turn the Dark Lanthorn of *LYCOPHRON*, rather than to trim the everlasting Lamp of *Homer*.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 7. *Force inertly strong,*] Alluding to the *Vis inertiae* of Matter, which, tho' it really be no Power, is yet the Foundation of all the Qualities and Attributes of that sluggish Substance.

P. W.

226 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

Then rose the Seed of Chaos, and of Night,
To blot out Order, and extinguish Light,
Of dull and venal a new World to mold, 15
And bring Saturnian days of Lead and Gold.

She mounts the Throne : her head a Cloud conceal'd,
In broad Effulgence all below reveal'd,

REMARKS.

VER. 11, 12. *Sick was the Sun,—The moon-struck Prophet*] The Poet introduceth this (as all great events are supposed by sage Historians to be preceded) by an *Eclipse of the Sun*; but with a peculiar propriety, as the Sun is the *Emblem* of that intellectual light which dies before the face of Dulness. Very apposite likewise is it to make this *Eclipse*, which is occasioned by the *Moon's predominancy*, the very time when *Dulness* and *Madness* are in *Conjunction*; whose relation and influence on each other the Poet hath shewn in many Places, Book i. ver. 29. Book iii. ver. 5. & seq. W.

VER. 14. *To blot out Order, and extinguish Light,*] The two great ends of her mission; the one in quality of Daughter of *Chaos*, the other as Daughter of *Night*. *Order* here is to be understood extensively, both as Civil and Moral; the distinctions between high and low in Society, and true and false in Individuals: *Light*, as intellectual only, Wit, Science, Arts. P. W.

VER. 15. *Of dull and venal*] The allegory continued; *dull* referring to the distinction of Light or Science; *venal* to the destruction of Order, or the truth of Things. P. W.

Ibid. a new World] In allusion to the Epicurean opinion, that from the Dissolution of the natural World into Night and Chaos a new one should arise; this the Poet alluding to, in the production of a new moral World, makes it partake of its original Principles. P. W.

VER. 16. *Lead and Gold,*] i. e. dull and venal. P. W.

VER. 18. *all below reveal'd,*] It was the opinion of the Antients, that the Divinities manifested themselves to Men by their *Back-parts*. Virg. *Æn.* i. *et avertens,*

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 227

(Tis thus aspiring Dulness ever shines)
Soft on her lap her Laureat son reclines.

20

REMARKS.

rosea cervice refulsit. But this passage may admit of another exposition--Vet. Adag. **The higher you**

climb the more you show your A—

Verified in no instance more than in Dulness aspiring. Emblematized also by an Ape climbing and exposing his posteriors.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 20. *her Laureat son reclines.*] With great judgment it is imagined by the Poet, that such a Colleague as Dulness had elected should sleep on the Throne, and have very little share in the Action of the Poem. Accordingly he hath done little or nothing from the day of his Anointing; having past through the second Book without taking part in any thing that was transacted about him; and thro' the third in profound Sleep. Nor ought this, well considered, to seem strange in our days, when so many *King-consorts* have done the like.

SCRIBL. P. W.

This verse our excellent Laureat took so to heart, that he appealed to all mankind, “ if he was not as “ *seldom asleep as any fool?*” But it is hoped the Poet hath not injured him, but rather verified his Prophecy (p. 243. of his own Life, 8vo. ch. ix.) where he says, “ *the Reader will be as much pleased to find me a Dunce “ in my Old Age, as he was to prove me a brisk block- “ head in my Youth.*” Wherever there was any room for Briskness, or Alacrity of any sort, *even in sinking*, he hath had it allowed; but here, where there is nothing for him to do but to take his natural rest, he must permit his Historian to be silent. It is from their *Actions* only that Princes have their characters, and Poets from their *works*: And if in *those* he be *as much asleep as any fool*, the Poet must leave him and them to *sleep to all eternity.*

BENT. P.

Ibid. *her Laureat*] “ When I find my name in the “ satirical works of this Poet, I never look upon it as “ any malice meant to me, but PROFIT to himself. For “ he considers that *my Face* is more *known* than most in

228 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

Beneath her foot-stool, *Science* groans in Chains,
 And *Wit* dreads Exile, Penalties, and Pains,
 There foam'd rebellious *Logic*, gagg'd and bound,
 There, stript, fair *Rhet'ric* languish'd on the ground;
 His blunted Arms by *Sophistry* are borne, 25
 And shameless *Billingsgate* her Robes adorn.
Morality, by her false Guardians drawn,
Chicane in Furs, and *Casuiſtry* in Lawn.
 Gasps, as they straiten at each end the cord,
 And dies, when Dulness gives her Page the word. 30

REMARKS.

“ the nation; and therefore *a Lick at the Laureate*
 “ will be a sure bait *ad captandum vulgus*, to catch
 “ little readers.” Life of Colley Cibber, ch. ii.

Now if it be certain, that the works of our Poet have owed their success to this ingenious expedient, we hence derive an unanswerable Argument, that this Fourth DUNCIAD, as well as the former three, hath had the Author's last hand, and was by him intended for the Press: Or else to what purpose hath he crown'd it, as we see, by this finishing stroke, the profitable *Lick at the Laureate*.

BENT. P. W.

VER. 21, 22. *Beneath her footstool, &c.*] We are next presented with the pictures of those whom the Goddess leads in captivity. *Science* is only depressed and confined so as to be rendered useless; but *Wit* or *Genius*, as a more dangerous and active enemy, punished, or driven away: *Dulness* being often reconciled in some degree with Learning, but never upon any terms with Wit. And accordingly it will be seen that she admits something like each Science, as Casuistry, Sophistry, &c. but nothing like *Wit*, *Opera* alone supplying its place.

P. W.

VER. 27. *by her false Guardians drawn,*] *Morality* is the Daughter of *Astræa*. This alludes to the Mythology of the ancient Poets; who tell us that in the *Gold* and *Silver* ages, or in the *State of Nature*, the Gods cohabited with Men here on Earth; but when by rea-

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 229

Mad *Máthesis* alone was unconfin'd,
 Too mad for mere material chains to bind,
 Now to pure Space lifts her extatic stare,
 Now running round the Circle finds it square.
 But held in ten-fold bonds the *Muses* lie, 35
 Watch'd both by Envy's and by Flatt'ry's eye :
 There to her heart sad Tragedy addrest
 The dagger wont to pierce the Tyrant's breast ;
 But sober History restrain'd her rage,
 And promis'd Vengeance on a barb'rous age. 40

R E M A R K S.

son of human degeneracy men were forced to have recourse to a *Magistrate*, and that the Ages of *Brass* and *Iron* came on (that is, when Laws were wrote on brazen tablets inforced by the Sword of Justice) the Celestials soon retired from Earth, and *Aitræa* last of all ; and then it was she left this her Orphan Daughter in the hands of the *Guardians* aforesaid. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 30. *gives her Page the word.*] There was a Judge of this name, always ready to hang any Man that came before him, of which he was suffered to give a hundred miserable examples during a long life, even to his dotage—Tho' the candid *Scriblerus* imagined *Page* here to mean no more than a *Page* or *Mute*, and to allude to the custom of strangling State Criminals in *Turkey* by *Mutes* or *Pages*. A practice more decent than that of *our Page*, who, before he hanged any one, loaded him with reproachful language.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 31. *Mad Máthesis*] Alluding to the strange Conclusions some Mathematicians have deduced from their principles, concerning the *real Quantity of Matter*, the *Reality of Space*, &c. P. W.

VER. 33. *pure Space*] i. e. pure and defæcated from Matter—*extatic Stare*, the action of men who look about with full assurance of seeing what does not exist, such as those who expect to find *Space* a real being. W.

VER. 34. *running round the Circle finds it square.*]

230 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

There sunk Thalia, nerveless, cold, and dead,
Had not her Sister Satire held her head :
Nor cou'd'st thou, CHESTERFIELD ! a tear refuse,
Thou wept'st, and with thee wept each gentle Muse.

R E M A R K S.

Regards the wild and fruitless attempts of *squaring the Circle*. P. W.

VER. 36. *Watch'd both by Envy's and by Flatt'ry's eye.*] One of the misfortunes falling on Authors from the *Art* for subjecting *Plays* to the power of a *Licensor*, being the false representations to which they were exposed, from such as either gratify'd their Envy to Merit, or made their Court to Greatness, by perverting general Reflections against Vice into Libels on particular Persons. P. W.

VER. 39. *But sober History*] History attends on Tragedy, Satire on Comedy, as their substitutes in the discharge of their distinct functions ; the one in high life, recording the crimes and punishments of the great ; the other in low, exposing the vices or follies of the common people. But it may be asked, How came *History* and *Satire* to be admitted with impunity to minister comfort to the Muses, even in the presence of the Goddess, and in the midst of all her triumphs ? A question, says *Scriblerus*, which we thus resolve : *History* was brought up in her infancy by Dulness herself ; but being afterwards espoused into a noble house, she forgot (as is usual) the humility of her birth, and the cares of her early friends. This occasioned a long estrangement between her and Dulness. At length, in process of time, they met together in a Monk's Cell, were reconciled, and became better friends than ever. After this they had a second quarrel, but it held not long, and are now again on reasonable terms, and so are like to continue. This accounts for the connivance shewn to History on this occasion. But the boldness of SATIRE springs from a very different cause ; for the reader ought to know, that she alone of all the sisters is unconquerable, never to be silenced, when

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 231

When lo! a Harlot form soft sliding by, 45
 With mincing step, small voice, and languid eye:
 Foreign her air, her robe's discordant pride
 In patch-work flutt'ring, and her head aside:
 By singing Peers up-held on either hand,
 She tripp'd and laugh'd, too pretty much to stand;
 Cast on the prostrate Nine a scornful look, 51
 Then thus in quaint Recitativo spoke.

O *Cara! Cara!* silence all that train:
 Joy to great Chaos! let Division reign:

R E M A R K S.

truly inspired and animated (as should seem) from above, for this very purpose, to oppose the kingdom of Dulness to her last breath. W.

VER. 43. *Nor cou'd'st thou, &c.*] This Noble Person in the year 1737, when the Act aforesaid was brought into the House of Lords, opposed it in an excellent speech (says Mr. *Cibber*) "with a lively spirit and uncommon eloquence." This speech had the honour to be answered by the said Mr. *Cibber* with a lively spirit also, and in a manner very uncommon, in the 8th chapter of his *Life and Manners*. And here, gentle Reader, would I gladly insert the other speech, whereby thou mightest judge between them: but I must defer it on account of some differences not yet adjusted between the noble author and myself, concerning the *True Reading* of certain passages. BENT. P. W.

VER. 45. *When lo! a Harlot form*] The Attitude given to this Phantom represents the nature and genius of the *Italian Opera*; its affected airs, its effeminate sounds, and the practice of patching up these Operas with favourite Songs, incoherently put together.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 54. *Joy to great Chaos!*]

Joy to great Cæsar!—The beginning of a famous old Song.

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Chromatic tortures soon shall drive from hence, 55
 Break all their nerves, and fritter all their sense :
 One Trill shall harmonize joy, grief, and rage,
 Wake the dull Church, and lull the ranting Stage;
 To the same notes thy sons shall hum, or snore,
 And all thy yawning daughters cry, *Encore.* 60
 Another Phæbus, thy own Phæbus, reigns,
 Joys in my jigs, and dances in my chains.
 But soon, ah soon, Rebellion will commence,
 If Music meanly borrows aid from Sense.

R E M A R K S.

These things were supported by the subscriptions of the Nobility. This circumstance that OPERA should prepare for the opening of the grand Sessions was prophesied of in Book iii. ver. 304.

*Already Opera prepares the way,
 The sure fore-runner of her gentle sway.*

VER. 54. *let Division reign :*] Alluding to the false taste of playing tricks in Music with numberless divisions, to the neglect of that harmony, which conforms to the Sense, and applies to the Passions. Mr. Handel had introduced a great number of Hands, and more variety of Instruments into the Orchestra, and employed even Drums and Cannon to make a fuller Chorus; which proved so much too manly for the fine Gentlemen of his age, that he was obliged to remove his music into *Ireland*. After which they were reduced, for want of Composers, to practise the patch-work above-mentioned. P. W.

VER. 55. *Chromatic tortures :*] That species of the ancient music called the *Chromatic* was a variation and embellishment, in odd irregularities, of the *Diatonic* kind. They say it was invented about the time of *Alexander*, and that the *Spartans* forbade the use of it, as languid and effeminate. W.

Book I

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 233

Strong in new Arms, lo! Giant HANDEL stands, 65
 Like bold Briareus with a hundred hands;
 To stir, to rouse, to shake the soul he comes,
 And Jove's own Thunders follow Mars's Drums.
 Arrest him, Empress; or you sleep no more——
 She heard, and drove him to th' Hibernian shore. 70
 And now had Fame's posterior Trumpet blown,
 And all the Nations summon'd to the Throne.
 The young, the old, who feel her inward sway,
 One instinct seizes, and transports away.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 58. *Wake the dull Church, and lull the ranting Stage;* i. e. Dissipate the *devotion* of the one by light and wanton airs; and subdue the *Pathos* of the other by recitative and sing-song. W.

VER. 59. *Thy own Phæbus reigns,*

Tuus jam regnat Apollo.

Virg.

Not the ancient *Phæbus*, the God of Harmony, but a modern *Phæbus* of *French* extraction, married to the Princess *Galimathia*, one of the handmaids of Dulness, and an assistant to Opera. Of whom see *Bobours*, and other Critics of that nation. SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 71. *Fame's posterior Trumpet*] *Posterior*, viz. her *second* or *more certain* Report: unless we imagine this word *posterior* to relate to the position of one of her Trumpets, according to *Hudibras*:

*She blows not both with the same Wind,
 But one before and one behind;
 And therefore modern Authors name
 One good, and t'other evil Fame.*

P. W.

VER. *The young, the old, who feel her inward sway,* [Ec.] In this new world of Dulness each of these three classes hath its appointed station, as best suits its nature, and concurs to the harmony of the System. The *first*, drawn only by the strong and *simple impulse* of

234 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

None need a guide, by sure attraction led, 75
And strong impulsive gravity of Head :
None want a place, for all their Centre found,
Hung to the Goddess, and coher'd around.
Not closer, orb in orb, conglob'd are seen
The buzzing Bees about their dusky Queen. 80

The gath'ring number, as it moves along,
Involves a vast involuntary throng,
Who gently drawn, and struggling less and less,
Roll in her Vortex, and her pow'r confess.

R E M A R K S :

attraction, are represented as falling directly down into her ; as conglobed into her substance, and resting in her centre,

———*all their centre found,
Hung to the Goddess, and coher'd around.*

The *second*, tho' within the sphere of her *attraction*, yet having at the same time a *projectile* motion, they are carried by the composition of these two, in *planetary revolutions* round her centre, some nearer to it, some further off :

*Who gently drawn, and struggling less and less,
Roll in her Vortex, and her pow'r confess.*

The *third* are properly *excentrical*, and no constant members of her state or system : sometimes at an immense distance from her influence, and sometimes again almost on the surface of her *broad effulgence*. Their use in their Perihelion, or nearest approach to Dulness, is the same in the moral World, as that of *Comets* in the natural, namely, to refresh and recreate the dryness and decays of the system ; in the manner marked out from ver. 91 to 98. W.

VER. 75. *None need a guide,—None want a place,* The sons of Dulness want no instructors in study, nor guides in life : They are their own masters in all Sci-

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 235

Not those alone who passive own her laws, 85
 But who, weak rebels, more advance her cause.
 Whate'er of dunce in College or in Town
 Sneers at another, in toupee or gown ;
 Whate'er of mungril no one class admits,
 A wit with dunces, and a dunce with wits. 90

REMARKS.

ences, and their own Heralds and Introducers into all places. P. W.

VER. 76 to 101.] It ought to be observed that here are three classes in this assembly. The first of men absolutely and avowedly dull, who naturally adhere to the Goddess, and are imaged in the simile of the Bees about their Queen. The second involuntarily drawn to her, tho' not caring to own her influence ; from ver. 81 to 90. The third of such, as though not members of her state, yet advance her service by flattering Dulness, cultivating mistaken talents, patronizing vile scriblers, discouraging living merit, or setting up for wits, and Men of taste in arts they understand not ; from ver. 91 to 101. P. W.

VER. 86. *weak Rebels, more advance her cause.*] Such as those who affect to oppose her Government, by setting up for patrons of Letters, without knowing how to judge of merit. The consequence of which is, that, as all true merit is modest and reserved ; and the *false*, forward and presuming ; and the Judge easily imposed upon ; Fools get the rewards due to genius. For as the poet said of one of these Patrons,

*Dryden, alone, (what wonder ?) came not nigh,
 Dryden alone escap'd this judging eye.*

And thus, as he rightly observes, these weak Rebels unwittingly advance the cause of her they would be thought most to oppose.

For while no rewards are given for the encouragement of Letters, Genius will support itself on the footing of that reputation, which men of wit will always win from the Dunces. But an undue distribution of

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Nor absent they, no members of her state,
 Who pay her homage in her sons, the Great :
 Who, false to Phœbus, bow the knee to Baal ;
 Or, impious, preach his word without a call.
 Patrons, who sneak from living worth to dead, 95
 With-hold the pension, and set up the head ;
 Or vest dull Flatt'ry in the sacred Gown ;
 Or give from fool to fool the Laurel crown.
 And (last and worst) with all the cant of wit,
 Without the soul, the Muse's Hypocrite. 100

There march'd the bard and blockhead, side by side,
 Who rhym'd for hire, and patroniz'd for pride.
 Narcissus, prais'd with all a Parson's pow'r,
 Look'd a white lilly sunk beneath a show'r.

R E M A R K S.

the rewards of Learning, will entirely depress or disgust all true genius ; which now not only finds itself robbed of the honours it might claim from others, but defeated of that very reputation it would otherwise have won for itself. For, as the course of things is ordered, general reputation, when it comes into rivalry, is rather attendant on favour and high station, than on the simple endowments of Wit and Learning. Hence we conclude that unless the Province of encouraging Letters be wisely and faithfully administered, it were better for them that there were no encouragements at all. W.

VER. 93. *false to Phœbus,*] Spoken of the ancient and true *Phœbus* ; not the *French Phœbus*, who hath no chosen Priests or Poets, but equally inspires any man that pleaseth to sing or preach. SCRIBL.

VER. 99, 100.

*And (last and worst) with all the cant of wit,
 Without the soul, the Muse's Hypocrite.]*

In this division are reckoned up 1. The Idolizers of

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 237

There mov'd Montalto with superior air ; 105
 His stretch'd-out arm display'd a volume fair ;
 Courtiers and Patriots in two ranks divide,
 Thro' both he pass'd, and bow'd from side to side :
 But as in graceful act, with awful eye
 Compos'd he stood, bold Benson thrust him by : 110
 On two unequal crutches propt he came,
 Milton's on this, on that one Johnston's name.
 The decent Knight retir'd with sober rage,
 Withdrew his hand, and clos'd the pompous page.
 But (happy for him as the times went then) 115
 Appear'd Apollo's May'r and Aldermen,

V A R I A T I O N S :

VER. 114.

“What! no respect, he cry'd, for SHAKESPEAR's page?”

R E M A R K S.

Dulness in the Great—2. Ill Judges—3. Ill Writers—
 4. Ill Patrons. But the *last and worst*, as he justly calls
 him, is the *Muse's Hypocrite*, who is, as it were, the
 Epitome of them all. He who thinks the only end of
 poetry is to amuse, and the only business of the poet
 to be witty ; and consequently who cultivates only
 such trifling talents in himself and encourages only
 such in others. W.

VER. 108.—*bow'd from side to side :*] As being of
 no one party. W.

VER. 110. *bold Benson*] This man endeavoured to
 raise himself to Fame by erecting monuments, striking
 coins, setting up heads, and procuring translations,
 of *Milton* ; and afterwards by as great passion for *Ar-*
thur Johnston, a *Scotch* physician's version of the Psalms,
 of which he printed many fine editions. See more of
 him, Book iii. ver. 325. P. W.

VER. 113. *The decent Knight*] An eminent person,
 who was about to publish a very pompous edition of
 a great Author *at his own expence*. P. W.

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On whom three hundred gold-capt youths await,
To tug the pond'rous volume off in state.

When Dulness, smiling—Thus revive the Wits!
But murder first, and mince them all to bits; 120
As erst Medea (cruel, so to save!)

A new Edition of old Æson gave;
Let standard-authors, thus, like trophies borne,
Appear more glorious, as more hack'd and torn.
And you, my Critics! in the checquer'd shade, 125
Admire new light thro' holes yourselves have made.

Leave not a foot of verse, a foot of stone,
A Page, a Grave, that they can call their own;

R E M A R K S.

VER. 115, &c. These four lines were printed in a separate leaf by Mr. Pope in the last edition, which he himself gave of the Dunciad, with directions to the printer, to put this leaf into its place as soon as Sir T. H's Shakespear should be published. B.

VER. 119. *Thus revive, &c.*] The Goddess applauds the practice of tacking the obscure names of Persons not eminent in any branch of learning, to those of the most distinguished Writers; either by printing *Editions* of their works with impertinent alterations of their Text, as in the former instances; or by setting up *Monuments* disgraced with their own vile names and inscriptions, as in the latter. P. W.

VER. 122. *old Æson*] Of whom Ovid (very applicable to these restored authors)

Æson miratur,

Disimilemque animum subiit—— P. W.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 126. *Admire new light, &c.*]

*The Soul's dark cottage, batter'd and decay'd,
Lies in new light thro' chinks that time has made.*
Waller.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 239

But spread, my sons, your glory thin or thick,
On passive paper, or on solid brick. 130
So by each Bard an Alderman shall sit,
A heavy Lord shall hang at ev'ry Wit,

R E M A R K S.

VER. 128. *A Page, a Grave,*] For what less than a Grave can be granted to a dead author? or what less than a Page can be allowed a living one? P. W.

Ibid. *A Page,*] *Pagina*, not *Pedisequus*. A Page of a Book; not a Servant, Follower, or Attendant; no Poet having had a *Page* since the death of Mr. Thomas Durfey. SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 131. *So by each Bard an Alderman, &c.*] Vide the *Tombs of the Poets*, Editio Westmonasteriensis. P. W.

Ibid. — *an Alderman shall sit,*] Alluding to the monument erected for Butler by Alderman Barber.

VER. 132. *A heavy Lord shall hang at ev'ry Wit,*] How unnatural an Image! and how ill supported, saith *Aristarchus*. Had it been,

A heavy Wit shall hang at ev'ry Lord,

something might have been said, in an age so distinguished for well-judging Patrons. For LORD, then, read LOAD; that is, of Debts here, and of Commentaries hereafter. To this purpose, conspicuous is the case of the poor author of *Hudibras*, whose *body*, long since weighed down to the grave by a *load* of debts, has lately had a more unmerciful load of Commentaries laid upon his *Spirit*; wherein the Editor has achieved more than Virgil himself, when he turned Critic, could boast of, which was no more than, *that he had picked gold out of another man's dung*; whereas he had picked it out of his own. SCRIBL.

Ibid. *A heavy Lord shall hang at ev'ry Wit,*] Which every wit cannot so well shake off as the author of the following Epigram:

“ My Lord complains, that Pope, stark mad with
“ gardens,
“ Has lopt three trees, the value of three farthings:

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And while on Fame's triumphal Car they ride,
Some Slave of mine be pinion'd to their side.

Now crowds on crowds around the Goddess press,
Each eager to present their first Addrefs. 136

Dunce scorning Dunce beholds the next advance,
But Fop shews Fop superior complaisance.

When lo! a Spectre rose, whose index-hand
Held forth the virtue of the dreadful wand; 140

His beaver'd brow a birchen garland wears,
Dropping with Infant's blood, and Mother's tears.

O'er ev'ry vein a shudd'ring horror runs;

Eton and Winton shake thro' all their Sons.

R E M A R K S.

" But he's my neighbour, cries the peer polite,

" And if he'll visit me, I'll wave my right.

" What? on Compulsion? and against my Will,

" A Lord's acquaintance? Let him file his Bill."

VER. 137, 138.

*Dunce scorning Dunce beholds the next advance,
But Fop shews Fop superior complaisance.]*

This is not to be ascribed so much to the different manners of a Court and College, as to the different effects which a pretence to Learning, and a pretence to Wit, have on Blockheads. For as Judgment consists in finding out the *differences* in thinge, and Wit in finding out their *likenesses*, so the Dunce is all discord and dissension, and constantly busied in *reproving, examining, confuting*, &c. while the Fop flourishes in peace, with Songs and Hymns of Praise, *Addresses, Characters, Epithalamiums*, &c. W.

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 142. *Dropping with Infant's blood, &c.]*

*First Moloch, horrid King, besmear'd with blood
Of human sacrifice, and parents tears. Milt.*

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 241

All Flesh is humbled, Westminster's bold race 145

Shrink, and confess the genius of the place :

The pale Boy-Senator yet tingling stands,
And holds his breeches close with both his hands.

Then thus. Since Man from beast by Words is known,
Words are Man's province, Words we teach alone.

When Reason doubtful, like the Samian letter, 151

Points him two ways, the narrower is the better.

Plac'd at the door of Learning, youth to guide,

We never suffer it to stand too wide.

R E M A R K S.

VER. 140. *the dreadful wand;*] A Cane usually borne by Schoolmasters, which drives the poor Souls about like the wand of Mercury. SCRIB. P. W.

VER. 148. *And holds his breeches]* An effect of Fear somewhat like this is described in the viith Æneid,

Contremuit nemus——

Et trepidæ matres pressere ad pectora natos.

nothing being so natural in any apprehension, as to lay close hold on whatever is supposed to be most in danger. But let it not be imagined the Author would insinuate these youthful senators (tho' so lately come from school) to be under the undue influence of any Master. SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 151. *like the Samian letter,]* The letter Y, used by Pythagoras as an emblem of the different roads of Virtue and Vice.

Et tibi quæ Samios diduxit litera ramos. Persl. P. W.

VER. 153. *Plac'd at the door, &c.]* This circumstance of the *Genius Loci* (with that of the Index-hand before) seems to be an allusion to the *Table of Cebes*, where the Genius of human Nature points out the road to be pursued by those entering into life. *Ὁ δὲ γένων ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐστὶν ὡς ἐκείνη, ἔχων χεῖρτιν τινὰ ἐν τῇ χειρὶ, καὶ τῇ ἐτέρᾳ ὡς περὶ δεικνύων τὸ ὅτι Δαίμων καλεῖται, &c.* P. W.

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To ask, to guess, to know, as they commence, 155
 As Fancy opens the quick springs of Sense,
 We ply the Memory, we load the brain,
 Bind rebel Wit, and double chain on chain,
 Confine the thought, to exercise the breath;
 And keep them in the pale of Words till death. 160
 Whate'er the talents, or howe'er design'd,
 We hang one jingling padlock on the mind;
 A Poet the first day he dips his quill;
 And what the last? A very Poet still.
 Pity! the charm works only in our wall, 165
 Lost, lost too soon in yonder House or Hall.
 There truant WYNDHAM ev'ry Muse gave o'er,
 There TALBOT sunk, and was a Wit no more!
 How sweet an Ovid, MURRAY was our boast!
 How many Martials were in PULT'NEY lost! 170
 Else sure some Bard, to our eternal praise,
 In twice ten thousand rhyming nights and days,

R E M A R K S.

VER. 154. —*to stand too wide*] A pleasant allusion to the description of the door of Wisdom in the *Table of Cebes*, *Θύραν τὴνὰ μυστῶν*.

VER. 159. *to exercise the breath*;] By obliging them to get the classic poets by heart, which furnishes them with endless matter for Conversation and Verbal amusement for their whole lives. P. W.

VER. 162. *We hang one jingling padlock, &c.*] For youth being used like pack-horses, and beaten on under a heavy load of Words, lest they should tire, their instructors contrive to make the Words jingle in rhyme or metre. W.

VER. 165. *In yonder House or Hall.*] Westminster-hall and the House of Commons.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 243

Had reach'd the Work, the All that mortal can ;
And South beheld that Master-piece of Man.

Oh (cry'd the Goddes) for some pedant Reign ! 175
Some gentle JAMES, to bless the land again ;

REMARKS.

VER. 174. *that Master-piece of Man.*] Viz. an *Epi-gram*. The famous Dr. South declared a perfect *Epi-gram* to be as difficult a performance as an *Epic poem*. And the Critics say, " an *Epic Poem* is the greatest work human nature is capable of." P. W.

VER. 175. *Oh (cry'd the Goddes) &c.*] The matter under debate is how to confine men to Words for life. The instructors of youth shew how well they do their parts ; but complain that when men come into the world they are apt to forget their Learning, and turn themselves to useful Knowledge. This was an evil that wanted to be redressed. And this the Goddes assures them will need a more extensive Tyranny than that of Grammar-schools. She therefore points out to them the remedy, in her wishes for *arbitrary Power* ; whose interest it being to keep men from the study of *things*, will encourage the propagation of *words* and *sounds* ; and to make all sure, she wishes for another *Pedant Monarch*. The sooner to obtain so great a blessing, she is willing even for once to violate the fundamental principle of her politics, in having her sons taught at least *one thing* ; but that sufficient, the *Doctrine of Divine Right*.

Nothing can be juster than the observation here insinuated, that no branch of Learning thrives well under Arbitrary government but *Verbal*. The reasons are evident. It is unsafe under such Governments to cultivate the study of things of importance. Besides, when men have lost their public virtue, they naturally delight in trifles, if their private morals secure them from being vicious. Hence so great a Cloud of Scholastic and Grammarians so soon overspread the Learning of Greece and Rome, when once those famous Communities had lost their Liberties. Another reason

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To stick the Doctor's Chair into the Throne,
Give law to Words, or war with Words alone,
Senates and Courts with Greek and Latin rule,
And turn the Council to a Grammar School ! 19.
For sure, if Dulness sees a grateful Day,
'Tis in the shade of Arbitrary Sway.

R E M A R K S.

is the *encouragement* which arbitrary governments give to the study of *words*, in order to busy and amuse active geniuses, who might otherwise prove troublesome and inquisitive. So when Cardinal Richlieu had destroyed the poor remains of his Country's liberties, and made the supreme Court of Parliament merely *ministerial*, he instituted the *French Academy*. What was said upon that occasion, by a brave Magistrate, when the letters-patent of its erection came to be verified in the Parliament of Paris, deserves to be remembered : He told the assembly, that *this adventure put him in mind after what manner an Emperor of Rome once treated his Senate ; who when he had deprived them of the cognizance of Public matters, sent a message to them in form for their opinion about the best Sauce for a Turbot.* W.

VER. 176. *Some gentle JAMES, &c.* Wilson tells us that this King, *James* the first, took upon himself to teach the Latin tongue to Car, earl of Somerset ; and that Gondomar the Spanish ambassador, would speak false Latin to him, on purpose to give him the pleasure of correcting it, whereby he wrought himself into his good graces.

This great Prince was the first who assumed the title of *Sacred Majesty*,, which his loyal Clergy transferred from God to Him. " The principles of Passive " Obedience and Non-resistance (says the author of " the Dissertation on Parties, Letter 8.) which before " his time had skulk'd perhaps in some old Homily " were talk'd, written, and preach'd into vogue in " that inglorious reign." P. W.

VER. 181, 182. *if Dulness sees a grateful Day,—*T

O! if my sons may learn one earthly thing,
 Teach but that one, sufficient for a King!
 That which my Priests, and mine alone, maintain,
 Which as it dies, or lives, we fall, or reign: 186
 May you, may Cam, and Isis preach it long!
 "The RIGHT DIVINE of Kings to govern wrong."

REMARKS.

in the shade of Arbitrary Sway.] And grateful it is in
 Dulness to make this confession. I will not say she al-
 ludes to that celebrated verse of Claudian,

*nunquam Libertas gratior exstat
 Quam sub Rege pio.*

But this I will say, that the words *Liberty* and *Monar-
 chy* have been frequently confounded and mistaken
 one for the other by the gravest authors. I should
 therefore conjecture, that the genuine reading of the
 forecited verse was thus,

*nunquam Libertas gratior exstat
 Quam sub Lege pia*

and that *Rege* was the reading only of Dulness her-
 self: and therefore she might allude to it. SCRIBL.

I judge otherwise of this passage: The genuine
 reading is *Libertas* and *Rege*: So Claudian gave it.
 But the error lies in the first verse; it should be *exit*,
 not *exstat*, and then the meaning will be, that Liberty
 was never lost, or went away with so good a grace, as
 under a good King; it being without doubt a tenfold
 shame to lose it under a bad one.

This farther leads me to animadvert upon a most
 grievous piece of nonsense to be found in all the Edi-
 tions of the Author of the Dunciad himself. A most
 capital one it is, and owing to the confusion above-
 mentioned by Scriblerus, of the two words *Liberty* and
Monarchy. Essay on Crit.

*Nature, like Monarchy, is but restrain'd
 By the same Laws herself at first ordain'd.*

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Prompt at the call, around the Goddess roll
Broad hats, and hoods, and caps, a sable shoal : 190
Thick and more thick the black blockade extends,
A hundred head of Aristotle's friends.

REMARKS.

Who sees not, it should be, *Nature, like Liberty?*
Correct it therefore *repugnantibus omnibus* (even though
the Author himself should oppugn) in all the impres-
sions which have been, or shall be, made of his
works.

BENTL. P. W.

VER. 189. *Prompt at the call,—Aristotle's friends*
The Author, with great propriety, hath made these,
who were so *prompt at the call* of Dulness, to become
preachers of the Divine Right of Kings, to be the
friends of Aristotle; for this philosopher, in his *poli-*
tics, hath laid it down as a principle, that some men
were, by nature, made to serve, and others to com-
mand.

W.

VER. 192. *A hundred head of Aristotle's friends.*
The Philosophy of *Aristotle* hath suffered a long dis-
grace in this learned University: being first expelled
by the *Cartesian*, which, in its turn, gave place to the
Newtonian. But it had all this while some faithful
followers in secret, who never bowed the knee to *Baal*,
nor acknowledged any strange God in Philosophy.
These, on this new appearance of the Goddess, come
out like Confessors, and make an open profession of
the ancient faith, in the *ipse dixit* of their Master.
Thus far SCRIBLERUS.

But the learned Mr. Colley Cibber takes the matter
quite otherwise; and that this *various fortune of Aris-*
totle relates not to his *natural*, but his *moral* Philoso-
phy. For speaking of that University in his time, he
says, *they seemed to have as implicit a Reverence for*
Shakspear and Johnson, as formerly for the *ETHICS*
of Aristotle. See his Life, p. 385. One would think
this learned professor had mistaken *Ethics* for *Physics*;
unless he might imagine the *Morals* too were grown
into disuse, from the relaxation they admitted of during
the time he mentions, *viz.* while He and the Players
were at Oxford.

W.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 247

Nor wert thou, Isis! wanting to the day,
 [Tho' Christ-church long kept prudishly away.]
 Each staunch Polemic, stubborn as a rock, 195
 Each fierce Logician, still expelling Locke,
 Came whip and spur, and dash'd thro' thin and thick
 On German Crouzaz, and Dutch Burgersdyck.

R E M A R K S.

Ibid. *a hundred head, &c.*] It appears by this the Goddess has been careful of keeping up a Succession, according to the rule,

*Semper enim refice: ac, ne post amissa requiras,
 Anteveni; & sobolem armento sortire quotannis.*

It is remarkable with what dignity the Poet here describes the *friends* of this ancient Philosopher. Horace does not observe the same decorum with regard to those of another sect, when he says, *Cum ridere voles Epituri de grege Porcum*. But the word *Drove, Armentum*, here understood, is a word of honour, as the most noble *Festus the Grammarian* assures us, *Armentum id genus pecoris appellatur, quod est idoneum opus armorum*. And alluding to the temper of this warlike breed, our Poet very appositely calls them a *hundred head*.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 194. [Tho' Christ-church] This line is doubtless spurious, and foisted in by the impertinence of the Editor; and accordingly we have put it between Hooks. For I affirm this College came as early as any other, by its *proper Deputies*; nor did any College pay homage to Dulness in its *whole body*. BENTL. P. W.

VER. 196. *still expelling Locke,*] In the year 1703. there was a meeting of the heads of the University of Oxford to censure Mr. Locke's Essay on Human Understanding, and to forbid the reading it. See his Letters in the last Edit.

VER. 198. *On German Crouzaz and Dutch Burgersdyck.*] There seems to be an improbability that the Doctors and Heads of Houses, should ride on horseback, who of late days, being gouty or unwieldy, have

248 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

As many quit the streams that murmur fall
To lull the sons of Marg'ret and Clare-hall, 200
Where Bentley late tempestuous wont to sport
In troubled waters, but now sleeps in Port.
Before them march'd that awful Aristarch;
Plow'd was his front with many a deep Remark:
His Hat, which never vail'd to human pride, 205
Walker with rev'rence took, and lay'd aside.

R E M A R K S.

kept their coaches. But these are horses of great strength, and fit to carry any weight, as their German and Dutch extraction may manifest; and very famous we may conclude, being honoured with *Names*, as were the horses Pegasus and Bucephalus.

SCRIBL. P. W.

Tho' I have the greatest deference to the penetration of this eminent Scholiast, and must own that nothing can be more natural than his interpretation, or juster than that rule of criticism, which directs us to keep to the *literal* sense, when no apparent obscurity accompanies it (and sure there is no absurdity in supposing a Logician on horseback) yet still I must needs think the Hackneys here celebrated were not real Horses, nor even Centaurs, which I should rather be inclined to think if I were forced to find them four legs, but downright plain men, tho' Logicians; and only thus metamorphosed by a rule of rhetoric, of which Cardinal Perron gives us an example, where he calls Clavius, "Un Esprit pesant, lourd, sans subtilité, in
"gentillesse UN GROS CHEVAL d'ALLEMAGNE."

ARISTAR.

Here I profess to go opposite to the whole stream of commentators. I think the Poet only aimed, tho' awkwardly, at an elegant Grecism in this representation; for in that language the word ἵππος [Horse] was often prefixed to others, to denote greatness or strength; as ἵππολάπαλον, ἵππόγλωσσον, ἵππομάραδρον, and particularly ΠΙΠΙΟΓΝΩΜΩΝ, a great connoisseur, which comes nearest to the case in hand.

SCIP. MAFF. W.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 249

Low bow'd the rest: He, kingly, did but nod;
 So upright Quakers please both Man and God.
 Mistress! dismiss that rabble from your throne:
 Avaunt——is Aristarchus yet unknown? 210
 Thy mighty Scholiast, whose unwear'd pains
 Made Horace dull, and humbled Milton's strains.
 Turn what they will to Verse, their toil is vain,
 Critics like me shall make it Prose again.

REMARKS.

VER. 199. *the streams*] The river Cam, running by the walls of these Colleges, which are particularly famous for their skill in Disputation. P. W.

VER. 202. *sleeps in Port.*] viz. "Now retired into "harbour, after the tempests that had long agitated "his society." So *Scriblerus*. But the learned *Scipio Maffei* understands it of a certain wine called *Port*, from *Oporto* a city of Portugal, of which this Professor invited him to drink abundantly. SCIP. MAFF. *De Computationibus Academicis*. P. W.

VER. 205. *His Hat, &c* — *So upright Quakers please both Man and God.*] The Hat-worship, as the Quakers call it, is an abomination to that sect: yet where it is necessary to pay that respect to man (as in the Courts of Justice and Houses of Parliament) they have, to avoid offence, and yet not violate their conscience, permitted other people to uncover them. P. W.

VER. 210. *Aristarchus*] A famous Commentator, and

IMITATIONS.

VER. 207. —— *He, kingly, did but nod;*] Milton;

—— *He, kingly, from his State
 Declin'd not* ——

VER. 210. —— *is Aristarchus yet unknown?*]

—— *Sic notus Ulysses?*

Dost thou not feel me, Rome?

Virg.

Ben. Johnson.

250 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

Roman and Greek Grammarians ! know your Better :
 Author of something yet more great than Letter ;
 While tow'ring o'er your Alphabet, like Saul, 217
 Stands our Digamma, and o'ertops them all.
 'Tis true, on Words is still our whole debate,
 Disputes of *Me* or *Te*, of *aut* or *at*, 220

R E M A R K S.

Corrector of Homer, whose name has been frequently used to signify a complete Critic. The compliment paid by our Author to this eminent Professor, in applying to him so great a Name, was the reason that he hath omitted to comment on this part which contains his own praises. We shall therefore supply that loss to our best ability.

SCRIBL P. W.

VER. 214. *Critics like me*—] Alluding to two famous Editions of Horace and Milton ; whose richest veins of Poetry he hath prodigally reduced to the poorest and most beggarly prose — Verily the learned scholiast is grievously mistaken. Aristarchus, in not boasting here of the *wonders* of his art in annihilating the sublime ; but of the *usefulness* of it, in reducing the turgid to its proper class ; the words *make it prose again*, plainly shewing that prose it was, tho' ashamed of its original, and therefore to Prose it should return. Indeed, much is it to be lamented that Dulness doth not confine her critics to this useful task ; and commission them to dismount all *prose on horseback*.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 216. *Author of something yet more great than Letter* ;] Alluding to those Grammarians, such as Palamedes and Simonides, who invented *single letters*. But Aristarchus, who had found out a *double* one, was

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 215. *Roman and Greek Grammarians, &c.*] Imitated from Propertius speaking of the *Æneid*.

*Cedite, Romani scriptores, cedite, Graii !
 Nescio quid majus nascitur Iliade.*

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 251

To found or sink in *cano*, O or A,
 Or give up Cicero to C or K.
 Let Freind affect to speak as Terence spoke,
 And Alsop never but as Horace joke :
 For me, what Virgil, Pliny may deny, 225
 Manilius or Solinus shall supply :
 For Attic Phrase in Plato let them seek,
 I poach in Suidas for unlicens'd Greek :

R E M A R K S.

therefore worthy of double honour. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 217, 218. *While tow'ring o'er your Alphabet,
 like Saul,—Stands our Digamma,*] Alludes to the boast-
 ed restoration of the Æolic Digamma, in his long pro-
 jected Edition of Homer. He calls it *something more
 than Letter*, from the enormous figure it would make
 among the other letters, being one Gamma set upon
 the shoulders of another. P. W.

VER. 220. *of Me or Te*] It was a serious dispute,
 about which the learned were much divided, and some
 treatises written : Had it been about *Meum* or *Tuum*,
 it could not be more contested, than whether at the
 end of the first Ode of Horace, to read, *Me doctarum
 hederæ præmia frontium*, or, *Te doctarum hederæ*—
 By this the learned scholiast would seem to intimate
 that the dispute was not about *Meum* and *Tuum*, which
 is a mistake : For, as a venerable sage observeth, *Words
 are the counters of Wise-men, but the money of Fools* ;
 so that we see their property was indeed concerned.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 222. *Or give up Cicero to C or K.*] Gramma-
 tical disputes about the manner of pronouncing Ci-
 cero's name in Greek. It is a dispute whether in Latin
 the name of Hermagoras should end in *as* or *a*. Quin-
 tilian cites Cicero as writing it *Hermagora*, which Bent-
 ley rejects, and says Quintilian must be mistaken, Ci-
 cero could not write it so, and that in this case he would
 not believe Cicero himself. These are his very words :

252 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

In ancient Sense if any needs will deal,
 Be sure I give them Fragments, not a Meal ; 230
 What Gellius or Stobæus hath'd before,
 Or chew'd by blind old Scholiasts o'er and o'er.
 The critic Eye, that microscope of Wit,
 Sees hairs and pores, examines bit by bit :
 How parts relate to parts, or they to whole, 235
 The body's harmony, the beaming soul,
 Are things which Kuster, Burman, Wasse shall see,
 When Man's whole frame is obvious to a *Flea*.
 Ah, think not, Mistress ! more true Dulness lies
 In Folly's Cap, than Wisdom's grave disguise. 240
 Like buoys that never sink into the flood,
 On Learning's surface we but lie and nod.

R E M A R K S.

Ego vero Ciceronem ita scripsisse ne Ciceroni quidem affirmanti crediderim—Epist. ad Mill. in fin. Frag. Menand. et Phil. W.

VER. 223, 224. *Freind—Alfop*] Dr. Robert Freind, master of Westminster-school, and canon of Christchurch—Dr. Anthony Alfop, a happy imitator of the Horatian style. P. W.

VER. 226. *Manilius or Solinus*] Some Critics having had it in their choice to comment either on Virgil or Manilius, Pliny or Solinus, have chosen the worse author, the more freely to display their critical capacity. P. W.

VER. 228, &c. *Suidas, Gellius, Stobæus*] The first a Dictionary-writer, a collector of impertinent facts and barbarous words ; the second a minute Critic ; the third an author, who gave his Common place book to the public, where we happen to find much Mince-meat of old books. P. W.

VER. 232. *Or chew'd by blind old Scholiasts o'er and o'er.*] These taking the same things eternally from the mouth of one another. P. W.

Thine is the genuine head of many a house,
And much Divinity without a Nêç.

Nor could a BARROW work on ev'ry block, 245
Nor has one ATTERBURY spoil'd the flock.
See! still thy own, the heavy Canon roll,
And Metaphysic smokes involve the Poll.

REMARKS.

VER. 239, 240. *Ab, think not, Mistress! &c.—In Folly's Cap, &c.*] By this it appears the Dunces and Pops, mentioned ver. 139, 140. had a contention of rivalry for the Goddess's favour on this great day. Those got the start, but these make it up by their Spokesman in the next speech. It seems as if Aristarchus here first saw him advancing with his fair Pupil.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 241, 242. *Like buoys, &c.—On Learning's surface, &c.*] So that the station of a Professor is only a kind of legal Noticer to inform us where the *shatter'd bulk* of Learning lies at anchor: which after so long unhappy navigation, and now without either Master or Patron, we may wish, with Horace, may lie there still.

——— *Nonne vides, ut*

Nudum remigio latus?

——— *non tibi sunt integra lintea;*

Non Di, quos iterum pressa voces malo.

Quamvis pontica pinus,

Sylvæ filia nobilis,

Factes & genus, & nomen inutile. Hor. W.

VER. 244. *And much Divinity without a Nêç.*] A word much affected by the learned Aristarchus in common conversation, to signify *Genius* or natural *acumen*. But this passage has a farther view: Nêç was the Platonic term for *Mind*, or the *first cause*, and that system of Divinity is here hinted at which terminates in blind nature without a Nêç: such as the Poet afterwards describes (speaking of the dreams of one of these later Platonists.)

254 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

For thee we dim the eyes, and stuff the head
With all such reading as was never read :

250

For thee explain a thing till all men doubt it,
And write about it, Goddess, and about it :
So spins the silk-worm small its slender store,
And labours till it clouds itself all o'er.

What tho' we let some better sort of fool
Thrid ev'ry science, run thro' ev'ry school ?

255

R E M A R K S.

*Or that bright Image to our Fancy draw,
Which Theocles in raptur'd Vision saw,
That Nature———* &c.

P. W.

VER. 245, 246. *Barrow, Atterbury,*] Isaac Barrow, Master of Trinity, Francis Atterbury, Dean of Christchurch, both great Geniuses and eloquent Preachers; one more conversant in the sublime Geometry; the other in classical Learning; but who equally made it their care to advance the polite Arts in their several Societies.

P. W.

VER. 247. *the heavy Canon*] Canon here, if spoken of *Artillery*, is in the plural number; if of the *Canons of the House*, in the singular, and meant only of one: in which case I suspect the *Pole* to be a false reading, and that it should be the *Poll*, or head of that *Canon*. It may be objected, that this is a mere *Paranomasia*, or *Pun*. But what of that? Is any figure of speech more apposite to our gentle Goddess, or more frequently used by her and her Children, especially of the University? Doubtless it better suits the Character of Dulness, yea of a Doctor, than that of an Angel; yet *Milton* feared not to put a considerable quantity into the mouths of his. It hath indeed been observed, that they were the Devil's Angels, as if he did it to suggest the Devil was the author as well of false Wit, as of false Religion, and that the Father of Lies was also the Father of Puns. But this is idle: It must be owned a Christian practice, used in the primitive times by some of the Fathers, and in late by

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 255

250

Never by tumbler thro' the hoops was shown

Such skill in passing all, and touching none.

He may indeed (if sober all this time)

Plague with Dispute, or persecute with Rhyme. 260

REMARKS.

255

most of the Sons of the Church; till the debauched reign of Charles the second, when the shameful passion for *Wit* overthrew every thing; and even then the best Writers admitted it, provided it was obscene, under the name of the *Double entendre*. SCRIBL. P. W.

W.

VER. 248. *And Metaphysic smokes, &c.*] Here the learned Aristarchus ending the first member of his harangue on behalf of *Words*; and entering on the other half, which regards the teaching of *Things*; very artfully connects the two parts in an encomium on METAPHYSICS, a kind of *Middle nature* between words and things: communicating, in its obscurity, with *Substance*, and, in its emptiness, with *Names*.

SCRIBL. W.

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VER. 255 to 271, *What tho' we let some better sort of fool, &c.*] Hitherto Aristarchus hath displayed the art of teaching his Pupils words, without things. He shews greater skill in what follows, which is to teach things without profit. For with the *better sort of fool* the first expedient is, ver. 254 to 258, to run him so swiftly through the circle of the Sciences that he shall stick at nothing, nor nothing stick with him; and though some little, both of words and things, should by chance be gathered up in his passage, yet he shews, ver. 259 to 261, that it is never more of the one than just to enable him to *persecute with Rhyme*, or of the other than to *plague with Dispute*. But if, after all, the Pupil will needs *learn* a Science, it is then provided by his careful directors, ver. 261, 262, that it shall either be such as he can never *enjoy* when he comes out into life, or such as he will be obliged to *divorce*. And to make all sure, ver. 263 to 267, the useless or pernicious Sciences, thus taught, are still applied perversely; the man of Wit *petrified* in Euclid, or *trammelled* in Metaphysics; and the man of Judgment

256 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

We only furnish what he cannot use,
 Or wed to what he must divorce, a Muse:
 Full in the midst of Euclid dip at once,
 And petrify a Genius to a Dunce:
 Or set on Metaphysic ground to prance, 265
 Show all his paces, not a step advance.
 With the same CEMENT, ever sure to bind,
 We bring to one dead level ev'ry mind.
 Then take him to develop, if you can,
 And hew the Block off, and get out the Man. 270
 But wherefore waste I words? I see advance
 Whore, Pupil, and lac'd Governor from France.

R E M A R K S.

married, without his parents consent, to a *Muse*. Thus far the particular arts of modern Education, used partially, and diversified according to the Subject and the Occasion: But there is one general Method, with the encomium of which the great Aristarchus ends his speech, ver. 267 to 270, and that is *AUTHORITY*, the universal CEMENT, which fills all the cracks and chasms of *lifeless* matter, shuts up all the pores of *living* substance, and brings all human minds to *one dead level*. For if Nature should chance to struggle through all the entanglements of the foregoing ingenious expedients to *bind rebel wit*, this claps upon her one sure and entire cover. So that well may Aristarchus defy all human power to *get the Man out* again from under so impenetrable a crust. The Poet alludes to this Master-piece of the Schools in ver. 501, where he speaks of *Vassals to a name*. W.

VER. 264 *petrify a Genius*] Those who have no Genius, employ'd in works of imagination; those who have, in abstract sciences. P. W.

VER. 270. *And hew the Block off*,] A notion of Aristotle, that there was originally in every block of marble a Statue, which would appear on the removal of the superfluous parts. P. W.

Walker ! our hat—nor more he deign'd to say,
But, stern as Ajax' spectre, strode away.

In flow'd at once a gay embroider'd race, 275
And titt'ring push'd the Pedants off the place :

Some would have spoken, but the voice was drown'd
By the French horn, or by the op'ning hound.

The first came forwards, with as easy mien,
As if he saw St. James's and the Queen. 280

When thus th' attendant Orator begun,
Receive, great Empress ! thy accomplish'd Son :

R E M A R K S.

VER. 272. *lac'd Governor*] Why *lac'd*? Because Gold and Silver are necessary trimming to denote the dress of a person of rank, and the Governor must be supposed so in foreign countries, to be admitted into courts and other places of fair reception. But how comes Aristarchus to know at sight that this Governor came from France? Know? Why, by the laced coat.

SCRIBL. P. W.

Ibid. *Whore, Pupil, and lac'd Governor*] Some Critics have objected to the order here, being of opinion that the Governor should have the precedence before the Whore, if not before the Pupil. But were he so placed, it might be thought to insinuate that the Governor led the Pupil to the Whore: and were the Pupil placed first, he might be supposed to lead the Governor to her. But our impartial Poet, as he is drawing their picture, represents them in the order in which they are generally seen; namely, the Pupil between the Whore and the Governor; but placeth the Whore first, as she usually governs both the other. P. W.

VER. 274. *stern as Ajax spectre, strode away.*] See Homer Odyss. xi. where the Ghost of Ajax turns suddenly from Ulysses the Traveller, who had succeeded against him in the dispute for the arms of Achilles. There had been the same contention between the Travelling and the University tutor, for the spoils of our young heroes, and fashion adjudged it to the former;

256 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 257

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258 THE DUNCIAD. Book IV.

Thine from the birth, and sacred from the rod,
A dauntless infant! never scar'd with God.
The Sire saw, one by one, his Virtues wake: 285
The Mother begg'd the blessing of a Rake.

R E M A R K S.

so that this might well occasion the sudden dignity in
departure, which Longinus so much admired.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 276. *And titl'ring push'd, &c.]* Hor.

Rideat & pulset lasciva decentius ætas. P. W.

VER. 279. *The first came forward, &c.]* This Forwardness or Pertness is the certain consequence, when the children of Dulness are spoiled by too great fondness of their parent. W.

VER. 280. *As if he saw St. James's]* Reflecting on the disrespectful and indecent Behaviour of several forward young persons in the presence, so offensive to all serious men, and to none more than the good Scriblerus. P. W.

VER. 281. *th' attendant Orator]* The Governor above-said. The Poet gives him no particular name; being unwilling, I presume, to offend or do injustice to any, by celebrating one only with whom this character agrees, in preference to so many who equally deserve it. SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 284. *A dauntless infant! never scar'd with God.]* i. e. Brought up in the enlarged principles of modern Education; whose great point it is to keep the infant mind free from the prejudices of opinion, and the growing spirit unbroken by terrifying Names. Amongst the happy consequences of this reformed discipline, it is not the least, that we have never after-

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 284. *A dauntless infant never scar'd with God.]*

— *sine Dis animosus Infans.*

Hor.

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 259

Thou gav'st that Ripeness, which so soon began,
 And ceas'd so soon, he ne'er was Boy, nor Man,
 Thro' School and College, thy kind cloud o'ercast,
 Safe and unseen the young Æneas past : 290
 Thence bursting glorious, all at once let down,
 Stunn'd with his giddy Larum half the town.
 Intrepid then, o'er seas and lands he flew :
 Europe he saw, and Europe saw him too.
 There all thy gifts and graces we display, 295
 Thou, only thou, directing all our way !

R E M A R K S.

wards any occasion for the *Priest*, whose trade, as a modern wit informs us, is only to *finish what the Nurse began*. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 286. — *the blessing of a Rake*] Scriblerus is here much at a loss to find out what this *blessing* should be. He is sometimes tempted to imagine it might be the marrying a great fortune : but this again, for the vulgarity of it, he rejects, as something uncommon seem'd to be prayed for. And after many strange conceits, not at all to the honour of the fair sex, he at length rests in this, that it was, that her son might pass for a wit ; in which opinion he fortifies himself by ver. 316, where the Orator, speaking of his pupil says, that he

Intrigu'd with glory, and with spirit whor'd.

which seems to insinuate that her prayer was heard. — Here the good scholiast, as, indeed, every where else, lays open the very soul of modern criticism, while he makes his own ignorance of a poetical expression hold open the door to much erudition and learned conjecture : the *blessing of a rake* signifying no more than that he might be a Rake ; the effects of a thing for the thing itself, a common figure. The careful mother only wished her son might be a *Rake*, as well knowing that its attendant *Blessings* would follow of course. W.

VER. 288. *He ne'er was Boy, nor Man.*] Nature hath

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To where the Seine, obsequious as she runs,
Pours at great Bourbon's feet her silken sons;
Or Tyber, now no longer Roman, rolls,
Vain of Italian Arts, Italian Souls: 300
To happy Convents, bosom'd deep in vines,
Where slumber Abbots, purple as their wines:
To Isles of fragrance, lilly-silver'd vales,
Diffusing languor in the panting gales:
To lands of singing, or of dancing slaves, 305
Love-whisp'ring woods, and lute-resounding waves.
But chief her shrine where naked Venus keeps,
And Cupids ride the Lyon of the Deeps;
Where, eas'd of Fleets, the Adriatic main
Wafts the smooth Eunuch and enamour'd swain, 310
Led by my hand, he saunter'd Europe round,
And gather'd ev'ry Vice on Christian ground;
Saw ev'ry Court, heard ev'ry King declare
His royal Sense of Op'ras or the Fair;

R E M A R K S.

bestowed on the human species two states or conditions, *Infancy* and *Manhood*. Wit sometimes makes the *first* disappear, and Folly the *latter*; but true Dulness annihilates *both*. For, want of *apprehension* in Boys, not suffering that conscious ignorance and inexperience which produce the awkward bashfulness of youth, makes them *assured*; and want of *imagination* makes them *grave*. But this *gravity* and *assurance*, which is beyond *boyhood*, being neither wisdom nor knowledge, do never reach to *manhood*. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 290. *unseen the young Æneas past: Thence bursting glorious,*] See Virg. Æn. i.

*At Venus obscuro gradientes aëre sepsit,
Et multo nebulae circum Dea fudit amictu,
Cernere ne quis eos;—1. neu quis contingere possit;
2. Moliri ve moram;—aut 3. veniendi poscere causas.*

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 261

The Stews and Palace equally explor'd, 315
 Intrigu'd with glory, and with spirit whor'd ;
 Try'd all *bors-d'œuvres*, all *liqueurs* defin'd,
 Judicious drank, and greatly daring din'd ;
 Dropt the dull lumber of the Latin store,
 Spoil'd his own language, and acquir'd no more ;
 All Classic learning lost on Classic ground ; 321
 And last turn'd *Air*, the Echo of a Sound !
 See now, half-cur'd, and perfectly well-bred,
 With nothing but a Solo in his head ;
 As much Estate, and Principle, and Wit, 325
 As Jansen, Fleetwood, Cibber shall think fit ;

REMARKS.

Where he enumerates the causes why his mother took this care of him : to wit, 1. that nobody might touch or correct him : 2. might stop or detain him : 3. examine him about the progress he had made, or so much as guests why he came there. P. W.

VER. 303. *lilly-silver'd vales*,] *Tuberoses*.

VER. 308. *And Cupids ride the Lyon of the Deeps* ;] The winged Lyon, the Arms of Venice. This Republic heretofore the most considerable in Europe, for her Naval force and the extent of her Commerce ; now illustrious for her *Carnivals*. P. W.

VER. 318. *greatly-daring din'd* ;] It being indeed no small risque to eat thro' those extraordinary compositions, whose disguised ingredients are generally unknown to the guests, and highly inflammatory and unwholesome. P. W.

VER. 322. *And last turn'd Air, the Echo of a Sound* !] Yet less a Body than Echo itself ; for Echo reflects *Sense* or *Words* at least, this Gentleman only *Airs* and *Tunes* :

—— *Sonus est, qui vivit in illo.* Ovid. Met.

So that this was not a Metamorphosis either in one or the other, but only a Resolution of the Soul into its

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Stol'n from a Duel, follow'd by a Nun,
And, if a Borough chuse him, not undone;
See, to my country happy I restore
This glorious Youth, and add one Venus more. 330
Her too receive (for her my soul adores)
So may the sons of sons of sons of whores,
Prop thine, O Empress! like each neighbour Throne,
And make a long Posterity thy own.

REMARKS.

true Principles; its real Essence being Harmony, according to the Doctrine of Orpheus, the Inventor of Opera, who first perform'd to a select assembly of Beasts. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 324. *With nothing but a Solo in his head;*] With nothing but a *Solo*? Why, if it be a *Solo*, how should there be any thing else? Palpable Tautology! Read boldly an *Opera*, which is enough of conscience for such a head as has lost all its Latin. BENT. P. W.

VER. 326. *Jansen, Fleetwood, Cibber,*] Three very eminent persons, all Managers of *Plays*; who, tho' not Governors by profession, had, each in his way, concerned themselves in the Education of Youth: and regulated their Wits, their Morals, or their Finances, at that period of their age which is the most important, their entrance into the polite world. Of the last of these, and his Talents for this end, see Book i. ver. 199, &c. P. W.

VER. 331. *Her too receive, &c.*] This confirms what the learned Scriblerus advanced in his Note on ver. 272, that the Governor, as well as the Pupil, had a particular interest in this lady. P. W.

VER. 332. *sons of whores,*] For such have been al-

IMITATIONS.

VER. 332. *So may the sons of sons, &c.*]

Bt nati natorum, et qui nascentur ab illis. Virg.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 263

Pleas'd, she accepts the Hero, and the Dame 335
Wraps in her Veil, and frees from sense of Shame.

Then look'd, and saw a lazy, lolling sort,
Unseen at Church, at Senate, or at Court,
Of ever-listless Loit'ers, that attend
No Cause, no Trust, no Duty, and no Friend. 340
Thee too, my Paridel! she mark'd thee there,
Stretch'd on the rack of a too easy chair,
And heard thy everlasting yawn confess
The Pains and Penalties of Idleness.
She pity'd! but her Pity only shed 345
Benigner influence on thy nodding head.

But Annius, crafty Seer, with ebon wand,
And well-dissembled em'rald on his hand.

R E M A R K S.

ways esteemed the ablest supports of the Throne of
Dulness, even by the confession of those her most *legi-*
timate sons, who have unfortunately wanted that ad-
vantage. The illustrious *Vanini* in his divine enco-
mium on our Goddess, intitled, *De Admirandis Natu-*
ræ Reginae Deæque mortalium Arcanis, laments that he
was not born a Bastard: *O utinam extra legitimum ac*
connubialem thorum essem procreatus! &c. He expatiates
on the prerogatives of a *free birth*, and on what he
would have done for the *Great Mother* with those ad-
vantages; and then sorrowfully concludes, *At quia*
Conjugatorum sum soboles, his orbatu sum bonis. W.

VER. 341. *Thee too, my Paridel!]* The Poet seems to

I M I T A T I O N S.

VER. 342. *Stretch'd on the rack——*
And heard, &c.]

Sedet, æternumque sedebit,
Infelix Theseus Phlegyasque miserrimus omnes
Admonet—— Virg.

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False as his Gems, and canker'd as his Coins,
Came, cramm'd with capon, from where Pollio dines.
Soft, as the wily Fox is seen to creep, 351
Where bask on sunny banks the simple sheep,
Walk round and round, now prying here, now there,
So he; but pious, whisper'd first his pray'r.

Grant, gracious Goddess! grant me still to cheat,
O may thy cloud still cover the deceit! 356

REMARKS.

Speak of this young gentleman with great affection.
The name is taken from Spenser, who gives it to a
wandering Courtly Squire, that travelled about for the
same reason, for which many young Squires are now
fond of travelling, and especially to *Paris*. P. W.

VER. 347. *Annius*,] The name taken from Annius
the Monk of Viterbo, famous for many Impositions
and Forgeries of ancient manuscripts and inscriptions,
which he was prompted to by mere vanity, but our
Annius had a more substantial motive. P. W.

VER. 348. *well-dissembled em'rald on his band*.] The
Poet seems here, as wits are ever licentious, to upbraid
this useful Member of Society for his *well-dissembled*
em'rald; whereas in truth it was by that circumstance
he should have been commended. This worthy person
was, I suppose, a Factor between the poor and rich, to
supply these with their imaginary wants, and to relieve
those from their real ones. Now I ask how can this
Factorage be carried on without well dissembling. The
rich man wants an Em'rald; his want is allowed on all

IMITATIONS.

VER. 355. ———grant me still to cheat,
O may thy cloud still cover the deceit!]

———*Da, pulchra Laverna,*
Da mihi fallere———
Noctem peccatis & fraudibus objice nubem. Hor.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 265

Thy choicer mists on this assembly shed,
 But pour them thickest on the noble head.
 So shall each youth, assisted by our eyes,
 See other Cæsars, other Homers rise ; 360
 Thro' twilight ages hunt th' Athenian fowl,
 Which Chalcis Gods, and mortals call an Owl,
 Now see an Attys, now a Cecrops clear,
 Nay, Mahomet! the Pigeon at thine ear ;

REMARKS.

hands to be imaginary. And what fitter for an imaginary want than an imaginary em'rald? For Philosophers agree, that *imagination*s are not to be cured by their contrary *realities*, but to be removed, if troublesome, by other imaginations ; and these again, in their turn, by other. Consider it in another light. An Em'rald, we agree, is an imaginary want ; but an Em'rald of Golconda is much more so. Now if in a *true Em'rald of France*, the colour, the lustre, and the bulk, be all improved, what is wanting in it, that may be thought to concur to that solid happiness, which we find an Em'rald is capable of giving to enlarged, and truly improved Minds? Certainly, nothing but that Golcondical substantial form, which is neither seen, felt, nor understood ; a certain essentiuncula, or, as we may say, *esprit solet*, with which substances had been for many ages possessed, but is lately sneaked out of matter, is no longer in nature, nor (what is more to the purpose) no longer in fashion.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 355. *still to cheat,*] Some read *skill*, but that is frivolous, for Annus hath that skill already ; or if he had not, *skill* were not wanting to cheat such persons.

BENTL. P. W.

VER. 361. *hunt th' Athenian fowl.*] The Owl stamp'd on the reverse on the ancient money of Athens.

Which Chalcis Gods, and mortals call an Owl.

is the verse by which Hobbes renders that of Homer.

Χαλκίδα κικλήσκουσιν Θεοὶ, ἄνδρες δὲ Κύμειον. P. W.

M

Be rich in ancient brass, tho' not in gold, 365
 And keep his Lares, tho' his house be sold;
 To headless Phœbe his fair bride postpone,
 Honour a Syrian Prince above his own;
 Lord of an Otho, if I vouch it true;
 Blest in one Niger, till he knows of two. 370

Mummius o'erheard him; Mummius, Fool-renown'd,
 Who like his Cheops sinks above the ground,
 Fierce as a startled Adder, swell'd, and said,
 Rattling an ancient Sistrum at his head:

REMARKS.

VER. 363. *Attys and Cærops.*] The first King of Athens. of whom it is hard to suppose any Coins are extant; but not so improbable as what follows, that there should be any of Mahomet, who forbade all Images; and the story of whose Pigeon was a monkish fable. Nevertheless one of these Anniius's made a counterfeit medal of that Impostor, now in the collection of a learned Nobleman. P. W.

VER. 371. *Mummius.*] This name is not merely an allusion to the Mummies he was so fond of, but probably referred to the Roman General of that name, who burned Corinth, and committed the curious Statues to the Captain of a ship, assuring him, "that if any were lost or broken, he should procure others to be made in their stead:" by which it should seem (whatever may be pretended) that Mummius was no Virtuoso. P. W.

VER. 371. — *Fool-renown'd*] A compound epithet in the Greek manner, *renown'd by Fools*, or *renown'd for making Fools*. P.

VER. 372. *Cheops*] A King of Egypt, whose body was certainly to be known, as being buried alone in his Pyramid, and is therefore more genuine than any of the Cleopatras. This Royal Mummy, being stolen by a wild Arab, was purchased by the Consul of Alexandria, and transmitted to the Museum of Mummius; for proof

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 267

Speak'st thou of Syrian Princes? Traitor base! 375
 Mine, Goddess! mine is all the horned race.
 True, he had wit, to make their value rise;
 From foolish Greeks to steal them, was as wise;
 More glorious yet, from barb'rous hands to keep,
 When Sallee Rovers chac'd him on the deep. 380
 Then taught by Hermes, and divinely bold,
 Down his own throat he risqu'd the Grecian gold,
 Receiv'd each Demi-God, with pious care,
 Deep in his Entrails—I rever'd them there,

REMARKS.

of which he brings a passage in Sandys's Travels, where that accurate and learned Voyager assures us that he saw the Sepulchre empty; which agrees exactly (saith he) with the time of the theft above-mentioned. But he omits to observe that Herodotus tells the same thing of it in his time. P. W.

VER. 375. *Speak'st thou of Syrian Princes? &c.*] The strange story following, which may be taken for a fiction of the Poet, is justified by a true relation in Spon's Voyages. Vaillant (who wrote the History of the Syrian Kings as it is to be found on medals) coming from the Levant, where he had been collecting various Coins, and being pursued by a Corsaire of Sallee, swallowed down twenty gold medals. A sudden Bourasque freed him from the Rover, and he got to land with them in his belly. On his road to Avignon he met two Physicians, of whom he demanded assistance. One advised Purgations, the other Vomits. In this uncertainty he

IMITATIONS.

VER. 383. *Receiv'd each Demi-God,*]

*Emissumque ima de sede Typhoëa terræ
 Cælitibus fecisse metum; cunctosque dedisse
 Terga fugæ: donec fessos Ægyptia tellus
 Ceperit—*

M 2

Ovid.

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I bought them, shrouded in that living shrine, 385
And, at their second birth, they issue mine.

Witness, great Ammon ! by whose horns I swore,
(Reply'd soft Annius) this our paunch before
Still bears them, faithful ; and that thus I eat,
Is to refund the Medals with the meat. 390

To prove me, Goddesses ! clear of all design,
Bid me with Pollio sup, as well as dine :
There all the Learn'd shall at the labour stand,
And Douglas lend his soft, obstetric hand.

The Goddesses smiling seem'd to give consent ; 395
So back to Pollio, hand in hand, they went.

Then thick as Locusts black'ning all the ground,
A tribe, with weeds and shells fantastic crown'd,

REMARKS.

took neither, but pursued his way to Lyons, where he found his ancient friend, the famous Physician and Antiquary Dufour, to whom he related his adventure. Dufour first asked him *whether the Medals were of the higher Empire ?* he assured him they were. Dufour was ravished with the hope of possessing such a treasure, he bargained with him on the spot for the most curious of them, and was to recover them at his own expence.

P. W.

VER. 383. *Each Demi-God,*] They are called *œtes* on their Coins. P. W.

VER. 387. *Witness, great Ammon !*] Jupiter Ammon is called to witness, as the father of Alexander, to whom those Kings succeeded in the division of the Macedonian Empire, and whose *Horns* they wore on their Medals.

P. W.

VER. 394. *Douglas*] A Physician of great Learning and no less Taste ; above all curious in what related to *Horace*, of whom he collected every Edition, Translation, and comment, to the number of several hundred volumes.

P. W.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 269

Each with some wond'rous gift approach'd the Pow'r,
A Nest, a Toad, a Fungus, or a Flow'r. 400

But far the foremost, two, with earnest zeal,
And aspect ardent to the Throne appeal.

The first thus open'd : Hear thy suppliant's call,
Great Queen, and common Mother of us all!

Fair from its humble bed I rear'd this Flow'r, 405

Suckled, and chear'd, with air, and sun, and show'r,

Soft on the paper ruff its leaves I spread,

Bright with the glided button tipt its head ;

Then thron'd in glass, and nam'd it CAROLINE :

Each maid cry'd, Charming! and each youth, Divine!

REMARKS.

VER. 397. *Then thick as locusts black'ning all the ground.*] The similitude of *Locusts* does not refer more to the numbers than to the qualities of the Virtuosi : who not only devour and lay waste every tree, shrub, and green leaf in their *Course*, i. e. of experiments ; but suffer neither a moss nor fungus to escape untouched.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 409. *and nam'd it Caroline.*] It is a compliment which the Florists usually pay to Princes and great

IMITATIONS.

VER. 405. *Fair from its humble bed, &c. nam'd it Caroline :*

Each maid cry'd, charming! and each youth, divine!

Now prostrate! dead! behold that Caroline :

No maid cries, charming! and no youth, divine!

These Verses are translated from Catullus, Epith.

Ut flos in septis secretus nascitur hortis,

Quem mulcent auræ, firmat Sol, educat imber,

Multi illum pueri, multæ optavere puellæ :

Idem quum tenui carptus defloruit ungui,

Nulli illum pueri, nullæ optavere puellæ, &c.

Did Nature's pencil ever blend such rays, 411
 Such vary'd light in one promiscuous blaze?
 Now prostrate! dead! behold that Caroline:
 No maid cries, Charming! and no youth, Divine!
 And lo the wretch! whose vile, whose insect lust 415
 Lay'd this gay daughter of the Spring in dust.
 Oh punish him, or to th' Elysian shades
 Dismiss my soul, where no Carnation fades.
 He ceas'd, and wept. With innocence of mein,
 Th' Accus'd stood forth, and thus address'd the Queen,
 Of all th' enamel'd race, whose silv'ry wing 421
 Waves to the tepid Zephyrs of the spring,

REMARKS.

persons, to give their names to the most curious Flowers
 of their raising: Some have been very jealous of vin-
 dicating this honour, but none more than that ambitious
 Gardener at Hammer-smith, who caused his Favourite
 to be painted on his sign, with this inscription, *This is*
My Queen Caroline. P. W.

VER. 418. *Dismiss my soul where no Carnation fades.*
 It is a trite observation, that men have always placed
 the happiness of their fancied *Elysium* in something they
 took most delight in here. The joys of a Mahometan
 paradise consist in young maidens, always virgins: Our
 modester Votary warms his imagination only with Car-
 nations always in bloom, which, alluding at the same

IMITATIONS.

VER. 421. *Of all th' enamel'd race,*] The poet seems
 to have an eye to Spenser, Muipotmos.

Of all the race of silver-winged Flies
Which do possess the Empire of the Air.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 271

Or swims along the fluid atmosphere,
 Once brightest shin'd this child of Heat and Air.
 I saw, and started from its vernal bow'r, 425
 The rising game, and chac'd from flow'r to flow'r.
 It fled, I follow'd; now in hope, now pain;
 It stopt, I stopt; it mov'd, I mov'd again.
 At last it fix'd, 'twas on what plant it pleas'd,
 And where it fix'd, the beauteous bird I seiz'd: 430
 Rose or Carnation was below my care;
 I meddle, Goddess! only in my sphere.
 I tell the naked fact without disguise,
 And, to excuse it, need but shew the prize;
 Whose spoils this paper offers to your eye, 435
 Fair ev'n in death! this peerless *Butterfly*.

My sons! (she answer'd) both have done your parts:
 Live happy both, and long promote our arts.
 But hear a Mother, when she recommends
 To your fraternal care our sleeping friends. 440

REMARKS.

time, to the perpetual spring of the old Elysian fields,
 give an inimitable pleastantry, as well as decorum to the
 conclusion of his Prayer. W.

VER. 440. *our sleeping friends,*] Of whom see ver.
 345 above.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 427, 428. *It fled, I follow'd; &c.*]

— *I started back,
 It started back; but pleas'd I soon return'd,
 Pleas'd it return'd as soon—* Milton.

The common Soul, of Heav'n's more frugal make,
 Serves but to keep fools pert, and knaves awake :
 A drowzy Watchman, that just gives a knock,
 And breaks our rest, to tell us what's a-clock.
 Yet by some object ev'ry brain is stirr'd ; 445
 The dull may waken to a humming bird ;
 The most recluse, discreetly open'd, find
 Congenial matter in the Cockle-kind ;
 The mind, in Metaphysics at a loss,
 May wander in a wilderness of Moss ; 450
 The head that turns at super-lunar things,
 Poiz'd with a tail, may steer on Wilkins' wings.

VARIATIONS.

VER. 441. *The common Soul, &c.*] In the first Edit.
 thus,

Of Souls the greater part, Heav'n's common make,
 Serve but to keep fools pert, and knaves awake ;
 And most but find that centinel of God,
 A drowzy Watchman in the land of Nod.

REMARKS.

VER. 444. *And breaks our rest, to tell us what's a-clock.*] i. e. When the feast of life is just over, calls us to think of breaking up ; but never watches to prevent the disorders that happen in the heat of the entertainment. W.

VER. 450. *a wilderness of Moss ;*] Of which the Naturalists count I can't tell how many hundred species. P. W.

VER. 452. *Wilkins' wings*] One of the first Projectors of the Royal Society, who, among many enlarged and useful notions, entertained the extravagant hope of a possibility to fly to the Moon ; which has put some

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 273

O! would the Sons of Men once think their Eyes
 And Reason giv'n them but to study *Flies*!
 See Nature in some partial narrow shape, 455
 And let the Author of the Whole escape:
 Learn but to trifle; or, who most observe.
 To wonder at their Maker, not to serve.

Be that my task (replies a gloomy Clerk,
 Sworn foe to Myst'ry, yet divinely dark; 460
 Whose pious hope aspires to see the day
 When Moral Evidence shall quite decay,

REMARKS.

volatile Geniuses upon making wings for that purpose.

P. W.

VER. 453. *O! would the Sons of Men, &c.*] This is the third speech of the Goddess to her Supplicants, and completes the whole of what she had to give in instruction on this important occasion, concerning Learning, Civil Society, and Religion. In the first speech, ver. 119, to her Editors and conceited Critics, she directs how to deprave Wit and discredit fine Writers. In her second, ver. 175, to the Educators of Youth, she shews them how all Civil Duties may be extinguished in that one doctrine of divine Hereditary Right. And in this third, she charges the Investigators of Nature to amuse themselves in Trifles, and rest in Second causes, with a total disregard of the first. This being all that Dulness can wish, is all she needs to say; and we may apply to her (as the Poet hath managed it) what hath been said of true Wit, that *She neither says too little, nor too much.*

P. W.

VER. 459. *a gloomy Clerk,*] The epithet *gloomy* in this line may seem the same with that of *dark* in the next. But *gloomy* relates to the uncomfortable and disastrous condition of an irreligious Sceptic, whereas *dark* alludes only to his puzzled and embroiled Systems. P. W.

VER. 462. *When Moral Evidence shall quite decay,*] Alluding to a ridiculous and absurd way of some Ma-

And damns implicit faith, and holy lies,
 Prompt to impose, and fond to dogmatize :)
 Let other creep by timid steps, and slow, 465
 On plain Experience lay foundations low,
 By common sense to common knowledge bred,
 And last, to Nature's Cause thro' Nature led.
 All-seeing in thy mists, we want no guide,
 Mother of Arrogance, and Source of Pride! 470
 We nobly take the high Priori Road,
 And Reason downward, till we doubt of God ;

REMARKS.

thematically, in calculating the gradual decay of Moral Evidence by mathematical proportions: according to which calculation, in about fifty years it will be no longer probable that Julius Cæsar was in Gaul, or died in the Senate-house. See *Craig's Theologiæ Christianæ Principia Mathematica*. But as it seems evident, that facts of a thousand years old, for instance, are now as probable as they were five hundred years ago ; it is plain that if in fifty more they quite disappear, it must be owing, not to their Arguments, but to the extraordinary Power of our Goddess ; for whose help therefore they have reason to pray. P. W.

VER. 465—68. *Let others creep—thro' Nature led.*] In these lines are described the *Disposition* of the rational Inquirer ; and the *means* and *end* of Knowledge. With regard to his *disposition*, the contemplation of the works of God with human faculties, must needs make a modest and sensible man timorous and fearful ; and that will naturally direct him to the right *means* of acquiring the little knowledge his faculties are capable of, namely *plain and sure experience* ; which tho' supporting only an humble *foundation*, and permitting only a very slow progress, yet leads, surely, to the *end*, the discovery of the *God of nature*. W.

VER. 471. *the high Priori Road.*] Those who, from the effects in this Visible world, deduce the Eternal

Make Nature still incroach upon his plan;
 And shove him off as far as e'er we can:
 Thrust some Mechanic Cause into his place; 475
 Or bind in Matter, or diffuse in Space.
 Or, at one bound o'er-leaping all his laws,
 Make God Man's Image, Man the final Cause,

REMARKS.

Power and Godhead of the First Cause, tho' they cannot attain to an adequate idea of the Deity, yet discover so much of him, as enables them to see the End of their Creation, and the Means of their Happiness: whereas they who take this high *Priori* Road (such as Hobbes, Spinoza, Des Cartes, and some better Reasoners) for one that goes right, ten lose themselves in Mists, or ramble after Visions, which deprive them of all sight of their End, and mislead them in the choice of wrong means. P. W.

VER. 472. *And reason downward, till we doubt of God:]* This was in fact the case of those who, instead of reasoning from a *visible World* to an *invisible God*, took the other road; and from an *invisible God* (to whom they had given attributes agreeable to certain metaphysical principles formed out of their own imaginations) reasoned *downward* to a *visible World* in theory, of Man's Creation; which not agreeing, as might be expected, to that of God's, they began, from their inability to account for *evil* which they saw in his world, to doubt of that God, whose Being they had admitted, and whose attributes they had deduced *a priori*, on weak and mistaken principles. W.

VER. 473. *Make Nature still.]* This relates to such as, being ashamed to assert a mere Mechanic Cause, and yet unwilling to forsake it intirely, have had recourse to a certain *Plastic Nature, Elastic Fluid, Subtile Matter, &c.* P. W.

VER. 475. *Thrust some Mechanic Cause into his place, Or bind in Matter, or diffuse in Space.]*

The first of these Follies is that of Des Cartes; the se-

Find Virtue local, all Relation scorn,
 See all in *Self*, and but for self be born: 480
 Of nought so certain as our *Reason* still,
 Of nought so doubtful as of *Soul* and *Will*,
 Oh hide the God still more! and make us see
 Such as Lucretius drew, a God like Thee:

REMARKS.

cond of Hobbs; the third of some succeeding Philosophers. P. W.

VER. 477. *Or, at one bound, &c.*] These words are very significant: In their Physical and Metaphysical reasonings it was a *Chain* of pretended *Demonstrations* that drew them into all these absurd conclusions. But their errors in Morals rest only on bold and impudent *Assertions*, without the least shadow of proof, in which they o'er-leap all the laws of Argument as well as Truth. W.

VER. 478, &c.

*Make God Man's Image, Man the final Cause,
 Find Virtue local, all Relation scorn,
 See all in Self—]*

Here the Poet from the errors relating to a Deity in Natural Philosophy descends to those in Moral. Man was made according to *God's Image*; this false Theology, measuring his attributes by ours, makes God after *Man's Image*. This proceeds from the imperfection of his *Reason*. The next, of imagining himself the final Cause, is the effect of his *Pride*: as the making Virtue and Vice arbitrary, and Morality the imposition of the Magistrate, is of the *Corruption* of his *heart*. Hence he centers every thing in *himself*. The Progress of Dulness herein differing from that of Madness; one ends in *seeing all in God*, the other in *seeing all in Self*. P. W.

VER. 481. *Of nought so certain as our Reason still*] Of which we have most cause to be diffident. *Of nought so doubtful as of Soul and Will*: two things the most self-evident, the Existence of our Soul, and the Freedom of our Will. P. W.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 277

Wrapt up in Self, a God without a Thought, 485

Regardless of our merit or default.

Or that bright Image to our fancy draw,

Which Theocles in raptur'd vision saw,

REMARKS.

VER. 484. *Such as Lucretius drew.*] Lib. i. ver. 57.

Omnis enim per se Divom natura necesse' st

Immortali ævo summa cum pace fruatur.

Semota ab nostris rebus, summotaque longe—

Nec bene pro meritis capitur, nec tangitur ira.

From whence the two verses following are translated, and wonderfully agree with the character of our Goddesses.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 487. *Or that bright Image*] *Bright Image* was the title given by the later Platonists to that Vision of Nature, which they had formed out of their own fancy, so bright, that they called it *Αὐτοπλον* "Αἶσαμα, or the *Self-seen Image*, i. e. seen by its own light.

This *Ignis fatuus* has in these our times appeared again in the North; and the writings of *Hutcheson*, *Geddes*, and their followers, are full of its wonders. For in this *lux borealis*, this *Self-seen Image*, these second-sighted philosophers see every thing else. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 487. *Or that bright Image*] i. e. Let it be either the *Chance-God* of *Epictetus*, or the *FATE*, of this Goddesses. W.

VER. 488. *Which Theocles in raptur'd vision saw,*] Thus this Philosopher calls upon his Friend, to partake with him in these Visions:

" To-morrow, when the Eastern Sun

" With his first Beams adorns the front

" Of yonder Hill, if you're content

" To wander with me in the Woods you see,

" We will pursue those Loves of ours,

" By favour of the Sylvan Nymphs:

" and invoking first the *Genius* of the *Place*, we'll try

While thro' Poetic scenes the GENIUS roves,
 Or wanders wild in Academic Groves; 490
 That NATURE our Society adores,
 Where Tindal dictates, and Silenus snores.

REMARKS.

"to obtain at least some faint and distant view of the
 "Sovereign Genius and first Beauty." *Charact.* Vol. ii.
 pag. 245.

This *Genius* is thus apostrophized (pag. 345) by the
 same Philosopher:

"—O glorious *Nature*!
 "Supremely fair, and sovereignly good!
 "All loving, and all lovely! all divine!
 "Wise Substitute of Providence, *impower'd*
 "Creatress! or *impow'ring Deity*,
 "Supreme Creator!
 "Thee I invoke, and thee alone adore.

Sir Isaac Newton distinguishes between these two in a
 very different manner. [Princ. Schol. gen. sub. fin.]—
Hunc cognoscimus solummodo per proprietates suas & attri-
buta, & per sapientissimas & optimas rerum structuras, &
causas finales; veneramur autem & colimus ob dominium.
Deus etenim sine dominio, providentia, & causis finalibus,
nihil aliud est quam Fatum & Natura. P. W.

VER. 489. *roves,—Or wanders wild in Academic*
Groves.] "Above all things I lov'd *Ease*, and of all
 "Philosophers those who reasoned most *at their Ease*,
 "and were never angry or disturbed, as those called
 "Sceptics never were. I looked upon this kind of Phi-
 "losophy as the *prettiest, agreeablest, roving Exercise* of
 "the mind, possible to be imagined." Vol. iii. p. 206.

P. W.
 VER. 491. *That Nature our Society adores,*] See the
Pantheisticon, with its liturgy and rubrics, composed by
 Toland. W.

VER. 492. *Where Tindal dictates and Silenus snores.*] It cannot be denied but that this fine stroke of satire

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 279

Rous'd at his name, up rose the bowzy Sire,
 And shook from out his Pipe the seeds of fire;
 Then snapt his box, and strok'd his belly down: 495
 Rosy and rev'rend, tho' without a Gown.
 Bland and familiar to the throne he came,
 Led up the Youth, and call'd the Goddess *Dame*,
 Then thus. From Priest-craft happily set free,
 Lo! ev'ry finish'd Son returns to thee: 500

R E M A R K S.

against Atheism was well intended But how must the Reader smile at our Author's officious zeal, when he is told, that at the time this was written, you might as soon have found a Wolf in England as an *Atheist*? The truth is, the whole species was exterminated. There is a trifling difference indeed concerning the author of the *Atchievement*. Some, as Dr. Ashenurst, gave it to Bentley's *Boylean Lectures*. And he so well convinced that great Man of his merit, that wherever afterwards he found *Atheist*, he always read it *A Theist*. But, in spite of a claim so well made out, others give the honour of this exploit to a later *Boylean Lecturer*. A judicious Apologist for Dr. Clarke, against Mr. Whiston, says, with no less elegance, than positiveness of expression, *It is a most certain truth, that the Demonstration of the being and attributes of God has extirpated and banished Atheism out of the Christian world*, p. 18. It is much to be lamented, that the clearest truths have still their dark side. Here we see it becomes a doubt which of the two Herculeses was the Monster-queller. But what of that? Since the thing is done, and the proof of it so certain, there is no occasion for so nice a canvassing of circumstances.

SCRIBL. W.

Ibid [*Silenus*] Silenus was an Epicurean Philosopher, as appears from Virgil, *Eclog. vi.* where he sings the principles of that Philosophy in his drink. P. W.

VER. 494. *seeds of fire*:] The Epicurean language, *Semina rerum*, or Atoms, Virg. *Eclog. vi. Semina ignis— semina flammæ*—

First slave to Words, then vassal to a Name,
 Then dupe to Party; child and man the same;
 Bounded by Nature, narrow'd still by Art,
 A trifling head, and a contracted heart.
 Thus bred, thus taught, how many have I seen, 505
 Smiling on all, and smil'd on by a Queen?
 Mark'd out for Honours, honour'd for their Birth,
 To thee the most rebellious things on earth:
 Now to thy gentle shadow all are shrunk,
 All melted down, in Pension, or in Punk! 510
 So K* so B** sneak'd into the grave,
 A Monarch's half, and half a Harlot's slave.
 Poor W** nipt in Folly's broadest bloom,
 Who praises now? his Chaplain on his Tomb.

REMARKS.

VER. 499, 500, *From Priest-craft happily set free,
 Lo! ev'ry finish'd Son returns to thee:]*

The learned Scriblerus is here very whimsical. It would seem, says he, by this, as if the PRIESTS (who are always plotting mischief against the *Law of Nature*) had inveigled these harmless Youths from the bosom of their Mother, and kept them in open Rebellion to her, till Silenus broke the charm, and restored them to her indulgent arms. But this is so singular a fancy, and at the same time so unsupported by proof, that we must in justice acquit them of all suspicions of this kind. W.

VER. 501. *First slave to Words, &c.]* A Recapitulation of the whole Course of Modern Education describ'd in this book, which confines Youth to the study of *Words* only in Schools; subjects them to the authority of *Systems* in the Universities; and deludes them with the names of *Party-distinctions* in the world. All equally concurring to narrow the Understanding, and establish Slavery and Error in Literature, Philosophy, and Politics. The whole finish'd in modern Free-thinking; the completion of whatever is vain, wrong, and destructive to the hap-

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 281

Then take them all, oh take them to thy breast! 515
Thy *Magus*, Goddess! shall perform the rest.

With that a WIZARD OLD his *Cup* extends;
Which whoso tastes, forgets his former friends,

REMARKS.

pinefs of mankind, as it establiſhes *Self-love* for the ſole Principle of Action P. W.

VER. 506. *ſmil'd on by a Queen?*] i. e. This Queen or Goddess of Dulneſs.

VER. 517. *With that a Wizard old, &c.*] Here be- ginneth the celebration of the GREATER MYSTERIES of the Goddess, which the Poet in his Invocation. ver. 5, promiſed to ſing. For when now each Aspirant, as was the cuſtom, had proved his qualification and claim to a participation, the HIGH-PRIEST of Dulneſs firſt initi- ated the Aſſembly by the uſual way of *Libation*. And then each of the Initiated, as was always required, put- teth on a new *Nature*, deſcribed in ver. 530. *Firm Impu- dence and Stupefaction mild*, which the ancient writers on the *Mysteries* call, τῆς ψυχῆς ἔρμα, the great prop or ful- crum of the human mind. When the High-Prieſt and Goddess have thus done their parts. each of them is de- livered into the hands of his Conductor, an inferior Mi- niſter or *Hierophant*, whoſe names are *Impudence, Stupe- faction, Self-conceit, Self-interest, Pleaſure, Epicuriſm, &c.* to lead them thro' the ſeveral apartments of her Myſtic Dome or Palace. When all this over, the ſovereign Goddess, from ver. 565 to 600 conferreth her *Titles* and *Degrees*; rewards inſeparably attendant on the *partici- pation* of the *Mysteries*; which made the ancient *Theon*

IMITATIONS.

VER. 518. *Which whoſo tastes, forgets his former friends,—Sire, &c.*] Homer of the *Nepenthe*, *Odyſſ. iv.*

Αὐτίκ' ἄρ' εἰς οἶνον βάλε φάρμακον, ἔνθεν ἔπινον
Νηπενθές τ' ἀχολάν τε, κακῶν ἐπίληθον ἀπάντων.

Sire, Ancestors, Himself. One cast his eyes

Up to a *Star*, and like Endymion dies:

520

A *Feather*, shooting from another's head,

Extracts his brain; and Principle is fled;

Lost is his God, his Country, ev'ry thing;

And nothing left but Homage to a King!

REMARKS.

say of them—*κάλλις μὲν ἔν, καὶ τὸν μεγίστων ἀγαθῶν, τὸ Μυστηρίων μετέχειν*. Hence being enriched with so many various Gifts and Graces, *Initiation* into the Mysteries was anciently, as well as in these our times, esteemed a necessary qualification for every high office and employment, whether in Church or State. Lastly the great Mother, the *Bona Dea*, shutteth up the solemnity with her gracious benediction, which concludeth in drawing the Curtain, and laying all her Children to rest. It is to be observed that *DULNESS*, before this her Restoration, had her Pontiffs *in Partibus*; who from time to time held her Mysteries in secret, and with great privacy. But now, on her Re-establishment, she celebrateth them, like those of the *Cretans* (the most ancient of all Mysteries) in open day, and offereth them to the inspection of all men.

SCRIBL. W.

Ibid. his Cup—Which who so tastes, &c.] The Cup of Self-love, which causes a total oblivion of the obligations of Friendship, or Honour; and of the Service of God or our Country; all sacrificed to Vain-glory, Court-worship, or the yet meaner considerations of Lucre and brutal Pleasures. From ver. 520 to 528. P. W.

VER. 518.—*forgets his former friends,*] Surely there little needed the force of charms or magic to set aside an *useless* friendship. For of all the accommodations of fashionable life, as there are none more reputable, so there are none of so little charge as friendship. It fills up the void of life with the name of dignity and respect; and at the same time is ready to give place to every passion that offers to dispute possession with it. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 523, 524. *Lost is his God, his Country—And no-*

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 283

The vulgar herd turn off to roll with Hogs, 525

To run with Horses, or to hunt with Dogs ;

But, sad example ! never to escape

Their Infamy, still keep the human shape.

But she, good Goddess, sent to ev'ry child

Firm Impudence, or Stupefaction mild ; 530

And strait succeeded, leaving shame no room,

Cibberian forehead, or Cimmerian gloom.

REMARKS.

thing left but Homage to a King.] So strange as this must seem to a mere English reader, the famous Monf. de la Bruyere declares it to be the character of every good Subject in a Monarchy: " Where (says he) *there is no such thing as Love of our Country, the Interest, the Glory, and Service of the Prince supply its place.*" *De la Republique, chap. x.*

Of this duty another celebrated *French* author speaks, indeed, a little more disrespectfully ; which, for that reason, we shall not translate, but give in his own words, " L'Amour de la Patrie, le grand motif des premiers Heros, n'est plus regardé que comme une Chimère ; " l'idée du Service du Roi, étendue jusqu'à l'oubli de " tout autre Principe, tient lieu de ce qu'on appelloit " autrefois Grandeur d'Ame & Fidelité." *Boulainvilliers Hist. des Anciens Parlements de France, &c. P. W.*

VER. 528. *Still keep the human shape,*] The effects of the Magus's Cup, by which is allegorized a *total* corruption of heart, are just contrary to that of Circe, which only represents the *sudden* plunging into pleasures. Hers, therefore, took away the shape, and left the human mind ; his takes away the mind, and leaves the human shape. W.

VER. 529. *But she, good Goddess, &c.*] The only comfort people can receive, must be owing in some shape or other to Dulness ; which makes some stupid, others impudent, gives Self conceit to some, upon the Flatteries of their dependants, presents the false colours of Interest to others, and busies or amuses the rest with

Kind Self-conceit to some her glass applies,
Which no one looks in with another's eyes:
But as the Flatt'rer or Dependant paint, 535
Beholds himself a Patriot, Chief, or Saint.

On others Int'rest her gay liv'ry flings,
Int'rest that waves on Party colour'd wings:
Turn'd to the Sun, she casts a thousand dyes,
And, as she turns, the colours fall or rise. 540

Others the Syren Sisters warble round,
And empty heads console with empty sound.
No more, alas! the voice of Fame they hear,
The balm of Dulness trickling in their ear.
Great C**, H**, P**, R*w, K*, 545
Why all your Toils? your Sons have learn'd to sing.

REMARKS.

idle Pleasures or Sensuality, till they become easy under any infamy. Each of which species is here shadowed under Allegorical persons. P. W.

VER. 532. *Cibberian forehead, or Cimmerian gloom.* i. e. She communicates to them of her own Virtue, or of her Royal Collegues. The *Cibberian forehead* being to fit them for Self-conceit, Self-interest, &c. and the *Cimmerian gloom* for the pleasures of Opera and the Table. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 544. *The balm of Dulness.* The true *Balm of Dulness*, called by the Greek Physicians *Κολακεία*, is a *Sovereign* remedy against Inanity, and has its poetic name from the Goddess herself. Its ancient Dispensators were *her Poets*; and for that reason our Author, Book ii. ver. 207. calls it, *the Poet's healing balm*: but now it is got into as many hands as Goddard's Drops or Daffy's Elixir. It is prepared by the *Clergy*, as appears from several places of this poem: And by ver. 534, 535, it seems as if the *Nobility* had it made up in their own houses. This, which *Opera* is here said to administer, is but a spurious sort. See my Dissertation on the *Silphium* of the *Antients*. BENTL. W.

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 285

How quick Ambition hastes to ridicule!
The Sire is made a Peer, the Son a Fool.

On some, a Priest succinct in amice white
Attends; all flesh is nothing in his sight? 550

Beeves, at his touch, at once to jelly turn,
And the huge Boar is shrunk into an Urn:
The board with specious miracles he loads,
Turns Hares to Larks and Pigeons into Toads.

Another (for in all what one can shine?) 555
Explains the *Serve* and *Verdeur* of the Vine.

REMARKS.

VER. 553. *The board with specious Miracles he loads, &c.*] Scriblerus seems at a loss in this place. *Speciosa miracula* (says he) according to Horace, were the monstrous Fables of the Cyclops, Læstrygons, Scylla, &c. What relation have these to the transformation of Hares into Larks, or of Pigeons into Toads? I shall tell thee. The Læstrygons spitted Men upon spears, as we do Larks upon skewers: and the fair Pigeon turned to a Toad is similar to the fair virgin Scylla ending in a filthy beast. But here is the difficulty, why Pigeons in so shocking a shape should be brought to a Table. Hares indeed might be cut into Larks at a second dressing, out of frugality: Yet that seems no probable motive, when we consider the extravagance before-mentioned of dissolving whole Oxen and Boars into a small vial of Jelly; nay it is expressly said, that *all Flesh is nothing in his sight*. I have searched in Apicius, Pliny, and the Feast of Trimalchio, in vain: I can only resolve it into some mysterious superstitious Rite, as it is said to be done by a *Priest*, and soon after called a *Sacrifice*, attended (as all ancient sacrifices were) with *Libation* and *Song*. SCRIBL.

This good Scholiast, not being acquainted with modern Luxury, was ignorant that these were only the miracles of *French Cookery*, and that particularly *Pigeons en crapeau* were a common dish. P. W.

What cannot copious Sacrifice at one?
 Thy Treuffles, Perigord! thy Hams, Bayonne!
 With French Libation, and Italian Strain,
 Wash Bladen white, and expiate Hays's stain. 560
 KNIGHT lifts the head, for what are crouds undone,
 To three essential Partridges in one?

REMARKS.

VER. 556. *Seve and Verdeur*] French Terms relating to Wines, which signify their flavour and poignancy.

Et je gagerois que chez le Commandeur

Villandri priferoit sa Seve & sa Verdeur. Dépreaux, St. Evremont has a very pathetic Letter to a Nobleman in *disgrace*, advising him to seek comfort in a good Table, and particularly to be attentive to *these Qualities* in his Champagne. P. W.

VER. 560. *Bladen—Hays*] Names of Gamesters. Bladen is a black man. ROBERT KNIGHT Cashier of the South-sea Company, who fled from England in 1720 (afterwards pardoned in 1742)—These lived with the utmost magnificence at Paris, and kept open Tables frequented by persons of the first Quality of England, and even by Princes of the Blood of France. P. W.

Ibid. Bladen, &c.] The former Note of *Bladen is a black Man*, is very absurd. The Manuscript here is partly obliterated, and doubtless could only have been, *Wash Blackmoors white*, alluding to a known Proverb.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 567. *Her Children first of more distinguish'd sort,
 Who study Shakespeare at the Inns of Court.*]

It would that Scholiast discharge his duty, who should neglect to honour those whom DULNESS has *distinguish'd*: or suffer them to lie forgotten, when their rare modesty would have left them nameless. Let us not, therefore, overlook the Services which have been done her Cause, by one Mr. THOMAS EDWARDS, a Gentleman, as he is pleased to call himself, of *Lincoln's Inn*; but, in reality, a Gentleman only of the Dunciad; or, to speak

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 287

Gone ev'ry blush, and silent all reproach,
Contending Princes mount them in their Coach.

Next bidding all draw near on bended knees, 565
The Queen confers her *Titles and Degrees*.
Her children first of more distinguish'd sort,
Who study Shakespeare at the Inns of Court,
Impale a Glow worm, or Vertu profess,
Shine in the dignity of F. R. S. 570

REMARKS.

him better, in the plain language of our honest Ancestors to such Mushrooms, *A Gentleman of the last Edition*: who, nobly eluding the solicitude of his careful Father, very early retained himself in the cause of *Dulness* against *Shakespear*, and with the wit and learning of his ancestor *Tom Thimble* in the *Rehearsal*, and with the air of good nature and politeness of *Caliban* in the *Tempest*, hath now happily finished the *Dunce's progress* in personal abuse. For a Libeller is nothing but a Grubstreet Critic run to Seed. Lamentable is the Dulness of these Gentlemen of the Dunciad. This *Fungoso* and his friends, who are all Gentlemen, have exclaimed much against us for reflecting on his *birth*, in the words, *a Gentleman of the last Edition*, which we hereby declare concern not his *birth* but his *adoption* only; and mean no more than that he is become *a Gentleman of the last Edition of the Dunciad*. Since Gentlemen, then, are so captious, we think it proper to declare, that Mr. Thomas Thimble, who is here said to be Mr. Thomas Edwards's Ancestor, is only related to him by the Muse's side. SCRIBL.

This Tribe of Men, which Scriblerus has here so well exemplified, our Poet hath elsewhere admirably characterized in that happy line,

A brain of Feathers, and a heart of Lead.

For the satire extends much further than to the person who occasioned it, and takes in the whole species of

Some, deep Free-Masons, join the silent race
 Worthy to fill Pythagoras's place:
 Some Botanists, or Florists at the least,
 Or issue Members of an Annual feast.
 Nor past the meanest unregarded, one 575
 Rose a Gregorian, one a Gormogon,
 The last, not least in honour or applause,
 Isis and Cam made DOCTORS of her LAWS.
 Then, blessing all, Go, Children of my care!
 • To Practice now from Theory repair. 580
 All my commands are easy, short, and full:
 My Sons! be proud, be selfish, and be dull.

REMARKS.

those on whom a good Education (to fit them for some
 useful and learned profession) has been bestowed in vain.
 That worthless Band

*Of ever listless Loit'ers, that attend
 No cause, no trust, no duty, and no Friend.*

Who, with an understanding too dissipated and futile for
 the offices of *civil* life; and a heart too lumpish, nar-
 row, and contracted for those of *social*, become fit for
 nothing: And so turn *Wits* and *Critics*, where sense and
 civility are neither required nor expected.

VER. 571. *Some, deep Free-Masons, join the silent race*] The Poet all along expresses a very particular concern for this silent Race: He has here provided, that in case they will not waken or open (as was before proposed) to a *Humming-Bird* or a *Cockle*, yet at worst they may be made Free-Masons; where *Taciturnity* is the only essential Qualification, as it was the *chief* of the disciples of Pythagoras. P. W.

VER. 576. *a Gregorian, one a Gormogon,*] A sort of Lay-brothers, *Slips* from the Root of the Free-Masons. P. W.

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 289

Guard my Prerogative, assert my Throne:
This Nod confirms each Privilege your own.
The Cap and Switch be sacred to his Grace; 585
With Staff and Pumps the Marquis lead the Race;

REMARKS.

VER. 581.

*All my commands are easy, short, and full:
My Sons! be proud, be selfish, and be dull.]*

We should be unjust to the reign of *Dulness* not to confess that hers has one advantage in it rarely to be met with in Modern Governments, which is, that the public Education of her Youth fits and prepares them for the observance of her laws, and the exertion of those Virtues she recommends. For what makes men prouder than the empty Knowledge of words; what more selfish than the Free-thinker's System of morals; or duller than the profession of true *Virtuosity*? Nor are her Institutions less admirable in themselves, than in the fitness of these their several relations, to promote the harmony of the whole. For she tells her Sons, and with great truth, that "all her commands are *easy, short, and full.*" For is any thing in nature more *easy* than the exertion of *Pride*; more *short* and *simple* than the principle of *Selfishness*; or more *full* and *ample* than the sphere of *Dulness*? Thus, Birth, Education, and wise Policy, all concurring to support the throne of our Goddess, great must be the strength thereof.

SCRIBL. W.

VER. 584. *each Privilege your own, &c.*] This speech of *Dulness* to her Sons at parting may possibly fall short of the Reader's expectation; who may imagine the Goddess might give them a charge of more consequence and from such a Theory as is before delivered, incite them to the practice of something more extraordinary, than to personate Running-Footmen, Jockeys, Stage Coachmen, &c.

But if it be well considered, that whatever inclination they might have to do mischief, her sons are generally rendered harmless by their Inability; and that it is the

From Stage to Stage the licens'd Earl may run,
 Pair'd with his Fellow-Charioteer the Sun ;
 The learned Baron Butterflies design,
 Or draw to silk Arachne's subtile line ; 590
 The Judge to dance his brother Sergeant call ;
 The Senator at Cricket urge the Ball ;
 The Bishop stow (Pontific Luxury!)
 An hundred Souls of Turkeys in a pye ;
 The sturdy Squire to Gallic masters stoop, 595
 And drown his Lands and Manors in a Soupe,
 Others import yet nobler arts from France,
 Teach Kings to fiddle, and make Senates dance.

REMARKS.

common effect of Dulness (even in her greatest efforts) to defeat her own design ; the Poet, I am persuaded, will be justified, and it will be allowed that these worthy persons, in their several ranks, do as much as can be expected from them. P. W.

VER. 585. *The Cap and Switch, &c.*] The Goddess's political balance of favour, in the distribution of her rewards, deserves our notice. It consists in joining with those Honours claimed by birth and high place others more adapted to the genius and talents of the Candidates. And thus her great Fore-runner, *John of Leiden*, King of Munster, entered on his Government, by making his ancient friend and companion, *Knipperdolling*, General of his Horse and Hangman. And had but Fortune seconded his great schemes of Reformation, it is said, he would have established his whole Household on the same reasonable plan. SCRIBL. W.

VER. 590. *Arachne's subtile line* ;] This is one of the most ingenious employments assigned, and therefore recommended only to Peers of Learning. Of weaving Stockings of the Webs of Spiders, see the Phil. Transf. P. W.

VER. 591. *The Judge to dance his brother Sergeant call* ;] Alluding perhaps to that ancient and solemn Dance, intitled, *A Call of Sergeants*. P. W.

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Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 291

Perhaps more high some daring son may soar,
Proud to my list to add one Monarch more ! 600
And nobly conscious, Princes are but things
Born for First Ministers, as Slaves for Kings,
Tyrant supreme ! shall three Estates command,
And MAKE ONE MIGHTY DUNCIAD OF THE LAND !

More she had spoke, but yawn'd—All Nature nods :
What Mortal can resist the Yawn of Gods ? 606

REMARKS.

VER. 598. *Teach Kings to fiddle*] An ancient amusement of Sovereign Princes, (viz.) Achilles, Alexander, Nero ; tho' despised by Themistocles, who was a Republican—*Make Senates dance*, either after their Prince, or to Pontoise, or Siberia. P. W.

VER. 606. *What mortal can resist the Yawn of Gods ?*] This verse is truly Homerial ; as is the conclusion of the Action, where the great Mother composes all, in the same manner as Minerva at the period of the Odyssey. —It may indeed seem a very singular Epitasis of a Poem, to end, as this does, with a *Great Yawn* ; but we must consider it as the *Yawn of a God*, and of powerful effects. It is not out of Nature, most long and grave counsels concluding in this very manner : Nor without Authority, the incomparable Spenser having ended one of the most considerable of his works with a *Roar* ; but then it is the *Roar of a Lion*, the effects whereof are described as the Catastrophe of the Poem. P. W.

VER. 607. *Churches and Chapels, &c.*] The Progress of this Yawn is judicious, natural, and worthy to be noted. First it seizeth the Churches and Chapels ; then catcheth the Schools, where, though the boys be unwilling to sleep, the Masters are not : Next Westminster-hall, much more hard indeed to subdue, and not totally put to silence even by the Goddesses : Then the Convocation, which though extremely desirous to speak, yet cannot : Even the House of Commons, justly called the

Churches and Chapels instantly it reach'd ;
 (St. James's first, for leaden G—— preach'd)
 Then catch'd the Schools ; the Hall scarce kept awake ;
 The Convocation gap'd, but could not speak : 610
 Lost was the Nation's Sense, nor could be found,
 While the long solemn Unison went round :
 Wide, and more wide, it spread o'er all the realm ;
 Ev'n Palinurus nodded at the Helm :
 The Vapour mild o'er each Committee crept ; 615
 Unfinish'd Treaties in each Office slept ;

REMARKS.

Sense of the Nation, is *lost* (that is to say *suspended*) during the Yawn (far be it from our Author to suggest it could be lost any longer!) but it spreadeth at large over all the rest of the Kingdom. to such a degree, that Palinurus himself (though as incapable of sleeping as Jupiter) yet noddeth for a moment : the effect of which, tho' ever so momentary, could not but cause some Relaxation, for the time, in all public affairs.

SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 610. *The Convocation gap'd, but could not speak.*] Implying a great desire so to do, as the learned Scholiast on the place rightly observes. Therefore, beware Reader, lest thou take this *Gap* for a *Yawn*, which is attended with no desire but to go to rest : by no means the disposition of the Convocation ; whose melancholy case in short is this: She was, as is *reported*, infected with the general influence of the Goddess ; and while she was yawning carelessly at her ease, a wanton Courtier took her at advantage, and in the very nick clap'd a *Gag* into her chops. Well therefore may we know her meaning by her *gaping* ; and this distressful posture our Poet here describes, just as she stands at this day, a sad example of the effects of Dulness and Malice unchecked and despised.

BENT. W.

VER. 615. 618.] These verses were written many years ago, and may be found in the State Poems of that

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 293

And Chiefless Armies doz'd out the Campaign;
And Navies yawn'd for Orders on the Main.

O Muse! relate (for you can tell alone,
Wits have short Memories, and Dunces none) 620
Relate, who first, who last resign'd to rest;
Whose Heads she partly, whose completely blest;
What Charms could Faction, what Ambition lull,
The Venal quiet, and intrance the Dull;

REMARKS.

time. So that Scriblerus is mistaken, or, whoever else have imagined this Poem of a fresher date. P. W.

VER. 620. *Wits have short Memories,*] This seems to be the reason why the Poets, whenever they give us a Catalogue, constantly call for help on the Muses, who, as the Daughters of Memory, are obliged not to forget any thing. So Homer, Iliad ii.

Πληθὺν δ' ἔκ ἂν ἐγὼ μυθήσομαι ἔδ' ὀνομένῳ,
Εἰ μὴ Ὀλυμπιάδες Μῆσαι, Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο
Θυσιαίρες, μνησαίαδ' —

And Virgil, Æn. vii.

*Et meministis enim, Divæ, & memorare potestis:
Ad nos vix tenuis famæ perlabitur aura.*

But our Poet had yet another reason for putting this Task upon the Muse, that, all besides being *asleep*, she only could relate what passed. SCRIBL. P. W.

VER. 624. *The Venal quiet, and &c.*] It were a problem worthy the solution of the profound Mr. Upton himself (and perhaps not of less importance than some of those weighty questions so long disputed amongst Homer's Scholiasts) to inform us, which required the greatest effort of our Goddess's power, to *intrance the Dull*, or to *quiet the Venal*. For tho' the *Venal* may be more unruly than the *Dull*, yet, on the other hand, it demands a much greater expence of her Virtue to *intrance* than barely to *quiet*. SCRIBL. W.

'Till drown'd was Sense, and Shame, and Right, and
Wrong——— 625

O sing, and hush the Nations with thy Song!

* * * * *

In vain, in vain—the all-composing Hour
Resistless falls: the Muse obeys the Pow'r.
She comes! she comes! the sable Throne behold
Of *Night* primæval and of *Chaos* old! 630
Before her, *Fancy's* gilded clouds decay,
And all its varying Rain-bows die away,
Wit shoots in vain its momentary fires,
The meteor drops, and in a flash expires.
As one by one, at dread *Medea's* strain, 635
The sick'ning stars fade off th' ethereal plain;
As *Argus' eyes* by *Hermes' wand* oppress'd,
Clos'd one by one to everlasting rest;

REMARKS.

VER. 629. *She comes! she comes! &c.*] Here the Muse, like Jove's Eagle, after a sudden stoop at ignoble game, soareth again to the skies. As Prophecy hath ever been one of the chief provinces of Poesy, our Poet here foretels from what we feel, what we are to fear; and, in the style of other prophets, hath us'd the future tense for the preterit: since what he says shall be, is already to be seen, in the writings of some even of our most adored authors, in Divinity, Philosophy, Physics, Metaphysics, &c. who are too good indeed to be named in such company.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 637. *As Argus' eyes, &c.*]

*Et quamvis sopor est oculorum parte receptus,
Parte tamen vigilat———*

——— *Vidit Cyllenius omnes
Succubuisse oculos, &c.*

Ovid. Met. ii.

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 295

Thus at her felt approach, and secret might,
Art after *Art* goes out, and all is Night. 640
 See skulking *Truth* to her old cavern fled,
 Mountains of Casuistry heap'd o'er her head!
Philosophy, that lean'd on Heav'n before,
 Shrinks to her second cause, and is no more.

VARIATIONS.

VER. 643. In the former Edd. it stood thus,

Philosophy, that reach'd the Heav'ns before,
Shrinks to her hidden cause, and is no more.

And this was intended as a censure of the Newtonian philosophy. For the Poet had been misled by the prejudices of foreigners, as if that philosophy had recurred to the *occult qualities of Aristotle*. This was the idea he received of it from a man educated much abroad, who had read every thing, but every thing superficially. Had his excellent friend Dr. A. been consulted in this matter, it is certain that so unjust a reflection had never discredited so noble a satire. When I hinted to him how he had been imposed upon, he changed the lines with great pleasure into a compliment (as they now stand) on that divine genius, and a satire on the folly by which he himself had been misled. W.

REMARKS.

VER. 629. *the sable Throne behold*] The sable Thrones of Night and Chaos, here represented as advancing to extinguish the light of the Sciences, in the first place blot out the Colours of *Fancy*, and damp the Fire of *Wit*, before they proceed to their work. W.

VER. 641. *Truth to her old Cavern fled,*] Alluding to the saying of Democritus, That Truth lay at the bottom of a deep well, from whence he had drawn her: Though Butler says, *He first put her in, before he drew her out.* W.

VER. 643 *Philosophy, that lean'd on Heav'n*] Philo-

Physic of Metaphysic begs defence,
And *Metaphysic* calls for aid on *Sense*!

645

REMARKS.

sophy has at length brought things to that pass; as to have it esteemed unphilosophical to rest in the *first cause*; as if its ends were an endless indagation of cause after cause, without ever coming to the first. So that to avoid this unlearned disgrace, some of the propagators of our best philosophy have had recourse to the contrivance here hinted at. For this Philosophy, which is founded in the principle of *Gravitation*, first considered that property in matter, as something extrinsecal to it, and impressed immediately by God upon it. Which, fairly and modestly coming up to the first Cause, was pushing natural enquiries as far as they should go. But this stopping, tho' at the extent of our ideas, and on the maxim of the great founder of this Philosophy, *Bacon*, who says, *Circa ultimates rerum frustranea est inquisitio*, was mistaken by foreign philosophers as recurring to the occult qualities of the Peripatetics.

*Pulsantes equidem vires intelligo nusquam
Occultas magicisque pares——
Sed gravitas etiam crescat, dum corpora centro
Accedunt propius. Videor mihi cernere terrâ
Emergens quidquid caliginis ac tenebrarum
Pellæi Juvenis Doctor conjecerat olim
In Physicæ studium: solitum dare nomina rebus,
Pro causis, unoque secans problemata verbo, Anti-Lucr.*

To avoid which imaginary discredit to the new-theory, it was thought proper to seek for the *cause* of *gravitation* in a certain *elastic fluid*, which pervaded all body. By this means, instead of really advancing in natural enquiries, we were brought back again, by this ingenious expedient, to an unsatisfactory *second cause*: For it might still, by the same kind of objection, be asked, what was the *cause* of that *elasticity*? See this folly censured, ver. 475.

VER. 645. 646. *Physic of Metaphysic, &c.—And Me-*

Book IV. THE DUNCIAD. 297

See *Mystery to Mathematics fly!*

In vain! they gaze, turn giddy, rave, and die.

Religion blushing veils her sacred fires,

And unawares *Morality* expires.

650

REMARKS.

taphysic calls, &c.] Certain writers, as Malbranche, Norris, and others, have thought it of importance, in order to secure the existence of the *soul*, to bring in question the reality of *body*; which they have attempted to do by a very refined *metaphysical* reasoning: While others of the same party, in order to persuade us of the necessity of a Revelation which promises immortality, have been as anxious to prove that those qualities, which are commonly supposed to belong only to an immaterial Being, are but the result from the sensations of matter, and the soul naturally mortal. Thus between these different reasonings, they have left us neither Soul and Body; nor the Sciences of Physics and Metaphysics the least support, by making them depend upon, and go a begging to one another. W.

VER. 647. See *Mystery to Mathematics fly!*] A sort of men, who make human Reason the adequate measure of all Truth, having pretended that whatsoever is not fully comprehended by it, is contrary to it; certain defenders of Religion, who would not be outdone in a paradox, have gone as far in the opposite folly, and attempted to shew that the mysteries of Religion may be mathematically demonstrated; as the authors of *Philosophic* or *Astronomic Principles* of Religion, *natural* and *revealed*; who have much prided themselves on reflecting a fantastic light upon religion from the frigid subtilty of school moonshine. W.

VER. 649. Religion *blushing veils her sacred fires,*] *Blushing*, as well at the memory of the *past* overflow of dulness, when the barbarous learning of so many ages was wholly employed in corrupting the simplicity, and defiling the purity of Religion, as at the view of these her false supports in the *present*; of which it would be

Nor *public* Flame, nor *private*, dares to shine;
 Nor *human* Spark is left, nor Glimpse *divine*!
 Lo! thy dread Empire, CHAOS! is restor'd;
 Light dies before thy uncreating word;
 Thy hand, great Anarch! lets the curtain fall,
 And universal Darkneſs buries All. 655

REMARKS.

endleſs to recount the particulars. However, amidſt the extinction of all other Lights, ſhe is ſaid only to withdraw hers; as hers alone in its own nature is unextinguishable and eternal. W.

VER. 650. *And unawares* Morality expires.] It appears from hence that our Poet was of very different ſentiments from the author of the Characteristics, who has written a formal treatiſe on Virtue, to prove it not only real but durable, without the ſupport of Religion. The word *unawares* alludes to the confidence of thoſe men, who ſuppoſe that Morality would flouriſh beſt without it, and conſequently to the ſurprize ſuch would be in (if any ſuch there are) who indeed love Virtue, and yet do all they can to root out the Religion of their Country. W.

F I N I S.



By the AUTHOR A DECLARATION.

WHEREAS certain Haberdashers of Points and Particles, being instigated by the spirit of Pride, and assuming to themselves the name of Critics and Restorers, have taken upon them to adulterate the common and current sense of our Glorious Ancestors. Poets of this Realm, by clipping, coining, defacing the images, mixing their own base allay, or otherwise falsifying the same; which they publish, utter, and vend as genuine: The said haberdashers having no right thereto, as neither heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or in any sort related to such Poets, to all or any of them: Now We, having carefully revised this our Dunciad, ^a beginning with the words,

^a Read thus confidently, instead of "beginning with the word <i>Books</i>, and ending with the word <i>flies</i>," as formerly it stood; Read also, "containing the entire sum of <i>one thousand, seven hundred, and fifty six</i> verses," instead of	"<i>one thousand and twelve</i> lines;" such being the initial and final words, and such the true and entire contents, of this Poem. Thou art to know, reader! that the first Edition thereof like that of Milton, was never seen by the Au-
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The mighty Mother, and ending with the words buries All, containing the entire sum of One thousand seven hundred and fifty four verses, declare every word, figure, point, and comma of this impzeſſion to be authentic: And do therefore ſtrictly enjoin and forbid any perſon or perſons whatſoever to erase, reverſe, put between hooks, or by any other means, directly or indirectly, change or mangle any of them. And we do hereby earneſtly exhort all our brethren to follow this our example, which we heartily wiſh our great Predeceſſors had heretofore ſet, as a remedy and prevention of all ſuch abuſes. Provided always, that nothing in this Declaration ſhall be conſtrued to limit the lawful and undoubted right of every ſubject of this Realm, to judge, cenſure, or condemn, in the whole or in part, any Poem or Poet whatſoever.

Given under our hand at London, this third day of January, in the year of our Lord One thouſand, ſeven hundred, thirty and two.

Declarat' cor' me,

JOHN BARBER, Mayor.

thor (though living and not blind :) The Editor himſelf confeſſed as much in his Preface: and no two poems were ever publiſh'd in ſo arbitrary a manner. The Editor of this, had as boldly ſuppreſſed whole paſſages, yea the entire laſt Book, as the Editor of *Paradiſe loſt*, added and augmented. Milton himſelf gave but *ten* books, his Editor *twelve*; this Author gave *four* books, his Editor only *three*. But we have happily done juſtice to both; and preſume we ſhall live, in this our laſt labour, as long as in any of our others.

BENTL.

APPENDIX.

I.

P R E F A C E

Prefixed to the first five imperfect Editions of the DUNCIAD, in three books, printed at DUBLIN and LONDON, in octavo and duodecimo, 1727.

The PUBLISHER ^a to the READER.

IT will be found a true observation, tho' somewhat surprizing, that when any scandal is vented against a man of the highest distinction and character, either in the state or in literature, the public in general afford it a most quiet reception; and the larger part accept it

^a *The Publisher*] Who he was is uncertain; but Edward Ward tells us, in his preface to *Durgen*, "that most judges are of opinion this preface is not of English extraction, but Hibernian," &c. He means it was written by Dr. Swift, who, whether publisher or not, may be said in a sort to be author of the poem. For when he, together with Mr. Pope (for reasons specified in the preface to their *Miscellanies*) determined to own the most tri-

fling pieces in which they had any hand, and to destroy all that remained in their power; the first sketch of this poem was snatched from the fire by Dr. Swift, who persuaded his friend to proceed in it, and to him it was therefore inscribed, But the occasion of printing it was as follows:

There was published in those *Miscellanies* a treatise of the Bathos, or Art of Sinking in Poetry, in which was a chapter, where the species of bad writers were

as favourably as if it were some kindness done to themselves: whereas if a known scoundrel or blockhead but chance to be touched upon, a whole legion is up in arms, and it becomes the common cause of all scriblers, booksellers, and printers whatsoever.

Not to search too deeply into the reason hereof, I will only observe as a fact, that every week for these two months past, the town has been persecuted with ^b pamphlets, advertisements, letters, and weekly essays, not

ranged in classes, and initial letters of names prefixed, for the most part at random. But such was the number of Poets eminent in that art, that some one or other took every letter to himself. All fell into so violent a fury, that for half a year, or more, the common News-papers (in most of which they had some property, as being hired writers) were filled with the most abusive falsehoods and scurrilities they could possibly devise; a liberty no ways to be wondered at in those people, and in those papers, that for many years, during the uncontrolled Licence of the press, had aspersed almost all the great characters of the age; and this with impunity, their own persons and names being utterly secret and obscure. This gave Mr. Pope the thought, that he had now some opportunity of doing good, by detecting and dragging into light

these common Enemies of mankind; since to invalidate this universal slander, it sufficed to shew what contemptible men were the authors of it. He was not without hopes, that by manifesting the dulness of those who had only malice to recommend them: either the booksellers would not find their account in employing them, or the men themselves, when discovered, want courage to proceed in so unlawful an occupation. This it was that gave birth to the *Dunciad*; and he thought it an happiness, that, by the late flood of slander on himself, he had acquired such a peculiar right over their Names as was necessary to his design.

^b *Pamphlets, Advertisements, &c.*] See the List of those anonymous papers, with their dates and authors annexed, inserted before the Poem.

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only against the wit and writings, but against the character and person of Mr. Pope. And that of all those men who have received pleasure from his works, which by modest computation may be about a ^c hundred thousand in these kingdoms of England and Ireland; (not to mention Jersey, Guernsey, the Orcades, those in the new world and foreigners, who have translated him into their languages) of all this number not a man hath stood up to say one word in his defence.

The only exception is ^d the author of the following poem, who doubtless had either a better insight into the grounds of this clamour, or a better opinion of Mr. Pope's integrity, joined with a greater personal love for him, than any other of his numerous friends and admirers.

Farther, that he was in his peculiar intimacy, appears from the knowledge he manifests of the most private authors of all the anonymous pieces against him, and from his having in this poem attacked ^e no man living, who

^c *about a hundred thousand]*

It is surprizing with what stupidity this preface, which is almost a continued irony, was taken by those authors. All such passages as these were understood by Curl, Cook, Cibber, and others, to be serious. Hear the Laureate (Letter to Mr. Pope, p. 9.) "Though I grant the Dunciad a better poem of its kind than ever was writ; yet, when I read it with those *vain-glorious* encumbrances of Notes and Remarks upon it, &c.—it is amazing, that you, who have writ with such masterly spirit upon the ruling Passion,

"should be so blind a slave
"to your own, as not to
"see how far a *low avarice*
"of Praise," &c. (taking it for granted that the notes of Scriblerus and others, were the author's own.)

^d *The author of the following poem, &c.]* A very plain irony, speaking of Mr. Pope himself.

^e The publisher in these words went a little too far; but it is certain, whatever names the reader finds that are unknown to him, are of such; and the exception is only of two or three, whose dulness impudent scurrility, or self-conceit, all mankind agreed to have justly

had not before printed, or published, some scandal against this gentleman.

How I came possess'd of it, is no concern to the reader; but it would have been a wrong to him had I detained the publication; since those names which are its chief ornaments die off daily so fast, as must render it too soon unintelligible. If it provoke the author to give us a more perfect edition, I have my end.

Who he is I cannot say, and (which is a great pity) there is certainly ^f nothing in his style and manner of writing, which can distinguish or discover him: For if it bears any resemblance to that of Mr. Pope, 'tis not improbable but it might be done on purpose, with a view to have it pass for his. But by the frequency of his allusions to Virgil, and a laboured (not to say affected) *shortness* in imitation of him, I should think him more an admirer of the Roman poet than of the Grecian, and in that not of the same taste with his friend.

I have been well informed, that this work was the labour of full ^z six years of his life, and that he wholly re-

entitled them to a place of the Dunciad.

^f *there is certainly nothing in his style, &c.*] This irony had small effect in concealing the author. The Dunciad, imperfect as it was, had not been published two days, but the whole Town gave it to Mr. Pope.

^z *the labour of full six years, &c.*] This was also honestly and seriously believed by divers gentlemen of the Dunciad, J. Ralph, pref. to Sawney. "We are told it was the labour of six years with the utmost assiduity and application: It is no great compliment

to the author's sense, to have employed so large a part of his life," &c. So also Ward, pref. to Durgen, "The Dunciad, as the publisher very wisely confesses, cost the author six years retirement from all the pleasures of life; though it is somewhat difficult to conceive, from either its bulk or beauty, that it could be so long in hatching, &c. But the length of time and closeness of application were mentioned to prepossess the reader with a good opinion of it."

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tired himself from all the avocations and pleasures of the world, to attend diligently to its correction and perfection; and six years more he intended to bestow upon it, as it should seem by this verse of Statius, which was cited at the head of his manuscript,

*Ob mihi bisseuos multum vigilata per annos,
Duncia^h!*

Hence also we learn the true title of the poem; which with the same certainty as we call that of Homer the *Iliad*, of Virgil the *Æneid*, of Camoens the *Lusiad*, we may prononnce, could have been, and can be no other than

The D U N C I A D.

It is styled *Heroic*, as being *doubly* so; not only with respect to its nature, which, according to the best rules of the ancients, and strictest ideas of the moderns, is critically such; but also with regard to the heroical disposition and high courage of the writer, who dared to stir up such a formidable, irritable, and implacable race of mortals.

There may arise some obscurity in chronology from the *Names* in the poem, by the inevitable removal of some authors, and insertion of others, in their niches. For whoever will consider the unity of the whole design will be sensible, that the *poem was not made for these authors, but these authors for the poem*. I should judge that they were clapp'd in as they rose, fresh and fresh, and changed from day to day; in like manner as when the old boughs wither, we thrust new ones into a chimney.

I would not have the reader too much troubled or anxious, if he cannot decypher them; since when he

stood what Scriblerus said "a quibble on the word of the Poem.

^h The prefacer to Curl's Key, p. 3. took this word to be really in Statius: "By opinion.

"*Duncia*, the *Dunciad* is
"formed." Mr. Ward also

shall have found them out, he will probably know no more of the persons than before.

Yet we judged it better to preserve them as they are, than to change them for fictitious names; by which the satire would only be multiplied, and applied to many instead of one. Had the hero, for instance, been called Codrus, how many would have affirmed him to have been Mr. T. Mr. E. Sir R. B. &c. but now all that unjust scandal is saved by calling him by a name, which by good luck happens to be that of a real person.

II.

A L I S T of
BOOKS, PAPERS, and VERSES,
In which our Author was abused, before the
Publication of the DUNCIAD; with the
true Names of the Authors.

REFLECTIONS critical and satyrical on a late Rhapsody, called An Essay on Criticism. By Mr. Dennis, printed by B. Lintot, price 6 *d*.

A New Rehearsal, or Bays the younger; containing an Examen of Mr. Rowe's plays, and a word or two on Mr. Pope's Rape of the Lock. Anon. [by Charles Gildon] printed for J. Roberts, 1714. price 1 *s*.

Homerides, or a Letter to Mr. Pope, occasioned by his intended translation of Homer. By Sir Iliad Dogrel. [Tho: Burnet and G. Duckett, esquires] printed for W. Wilkins, 1715. price 9 *d*.

Æsop at the Bear-garden; a vision, in imitation of the Temple of Fame. By Mr. Preston. Sold by John Morphew, 1715. price 6 *d*.

The Catholic Poet, or Protestant Barnaby's Sorrowful Lamentation; a Ballad about Homer's Iliad. By Mrs. Centlivre, and others, 1715. price 1 *d*.

An Epilogue to a Puppet-shew at Bath concerning the said Iliad. By George Duckett, esq; printed by E. Curl.

A complete Key to the What d'ye call it. Anon. [by Griffin a player, supervised by Mr. Th—] printed by J. Roberts, 1715.

A true Character of Mr. P. and his writings. in a letter to a friend. Anon. [Dennis] printed for S. Popping, 1716. price 3 *d*.

The Confederates, a Farce. By Joseph Gay [J. D. Breval] printed for Burleigh, 1717. price 1 *s*.

Remarks upon Mr. Pope's translation of Homer; with two letters concerning the Windsor Forest, and the Temple of Fame. By Mr. Dennis, printed for E. Curl, 1717. price 1 *s*. 6 *d*.

Satyr on the translators of Homer, Mr. P. and Mr. T. Anon. [Bez. Morris] 1717. price 6 *d*.

The Triumvirate: or, a Letter from Palæmon to Cælia at Bath. Anon. [Leonard Welsted] 1711. Folio, price 1 *s*.

The Battle of Poets, an heroic poem. By Tho. Cooke, printed for J. Roberts, Folio, 1725.

Memoirs of Lilliput. Anon. [Eliza Haywood] octavo, printed in 1727.

An Essay on Criticism, in prose. By the Author of the Critical History of England [J. Oldmixon] octavo, printed 1728.

Gulliveriana and Alexandriana; with an ample preface and critique on Swift and Pope's Miscellanies. By Jonathan Smedley, printed by J. Roberts, octavo, 1728.

Characters of the Times; or, an account of the writings, characters, &c. of several gentlemen libelled by S— and P—, in a late Miscellany, octavo, 1728.

Remarks on Mr. Pope's Rape of the Lock, in letters to a friend. By Mr. Dennis; written in 1724, though not printed till 1728, octavo.

*Verses, Letters, Essays, or Advertisements, in
the public Prints.*

British Journal, Nov. 25, 1727. A Letter on Swift and Pope's Miscellanies. [Written by M. Concanen.]

Daily Journal, March 18, 1728. A Letter by Philomauri, James-Moore Smith.

Id. March 29. A Letter about Therfites accusing the author of disaffection to the Government. By James-Moore Smith.

Mist's Weekly Journal, March 30. An Essay on the Arts of a Poet's sinking in reputation; or, a Supplement to the Art of Sinking in Poetry. [Supposed by Mr. Theobald.]

Daily Journal, April 3. A Letter under the name of Philo-ditto. By James-Moore Smith.

Flying Post, April 4. A Letter against Gulliver and Mr. P. [By Mr. Oldmixon.]

Daily Journal, April 5. An Auction of Goods at Twickenham. By James-Moore Smith.

The Flying Post, April 6. A Fragment of a Treatise upon Swift and Pope. By Mr. Oldmixon.

The Senator, April 9. On the same. By Edward Roome.

Daily Journal, April 8. Advertisement by James-Moore Smith.

Flying Post, April 13. Verses against Dr. Swift, and against Mr. P—'s Homer. By J. Oldmixon.

Daily Journal, April 23. Letter about the translation of the character of Therfites in Homer. By Thomas Cooke, &c.

Mist's Weekly Journal, April 27. A Letter of Lewis Theobald.

Daily Journal, May 11. A Letter against Mr. P. at large. Anon. [John Dennis.]

All these were afterwards reprinted in a pamphlet, entitled. A Collection of all the Verses, Essays, Letters, and Advertisements occasioned by Mr. Pope and Swift's Miscellanies, prefaced by Concanen, Anonymous, octa-

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A P P E N D I X. 309

vo, and printed for A. Moore, 1728, price 1 s. Others of an elder date, having lain as waste paper many years, were, upon the publication of the *Dunciad*, brought out, and their authors betrayed by the mercenary Book-sellers (in hope of some possibility of vending a few) by advertising them in this manner—"The Confederates, a farce. By Capt Breval (for which he was put into the *Dunciad*) An Epilogue to Powel's Puppet-show. By Col. Duckett (for which he is put into the *Dunciad*.) Essays, &c. By Sir Richard Blackmore. (N. B. It was for a passage of this book that Sir Richard was put into the *Dunciad*.)" And so of others.

After the Dunciad, 1728.

An Essay on the *Dunciad*. Octavo, printed for J. Roberts. [In this book, p. 9. it was formally declared. "That the complaint of the aforesaid Libels and Advertisements was forged and untrue; that all mouths had been silent, except in Mr Pope's praise; and nothing against him published, but by Mr. Theobald."]

Sawney in blank verse, occasioned by the *Dunciad*; with a Critique on that poem. By J. Ralph [a person never mentioned in it at first, but inserted after] printed for J. Roberts, octavo.

A complete Key to the *Dunciad*, by E. Curl, 12mo, price 6 d.

A second and third edition of the same, with additions, 12mo.

The Popiad. By E. Curl, extracted from J. Dennis, Sir Richard Blackmore. &c. 12mo. price 6 d.

The Curliad. By the same E. Curl.

The Female *Dunciad*. Collected by the same Mr. Curl, 12mo, price 6 d. With the Metamorphosis of P. into a stinging Nettle. By Mr. Foxton, 12mo.

The Metamorphosis of Scriblerus into Snarlerus. By J. Smedley, printed for A. Moore, folio, price 6 d.

The *Dunciad* dissected. By Curl and Mrs. Thomas, 12mo.

An Essay on the Taste and Writings of the present times. Said to be writ by a gentleman of C. C. C. Oxon, printed for J. Roberts, octavo.

The Arts of Logic and Rhetoric, partly taken from Bouhours with new Reflections, &c. By John Oldmixon, octavo.

Remarks on the Dunciad. By Mr. Dennis, dedicated to Theobald, octavo.

A Supplement to the Profund. Anon. by Matthew Concanen, octavo.

Mist's Weekly Journal, June 8. A long letter signed W. A. Writ by some or other of the Club of Theobald, Dennis, Moore, Concanen, Cooke, who for some time held constant weekly meetings for these kind of performances.

Daily Journal, June 11. A Letter signed Philoscriberus, on the name of Pope—Letter to Mr. Theobald, in verse, signed B. M [Bezaleel Morris] against Mr. P—Many other little epigrams about this time in the same papers, by James Moore, and others.

Mist's Journal, June 22. A Letter by Lewis Theobald.

Flying Post, August 8. Letter on Pope and Swift.

Daily Journal, August 8. Letter charging the author of the Dunciad with Treason.

Durgen: a plain satire on a pompous satirist. By Edward Ward, with a little of James Moore.

Apollo's Maggot in his Cups. By E. Ward.

Gulliveriana secunda. Being a Collection of many of the Libels in the News papers, like the former volume, under the same title, by Smedley. Advertised in the Craftsman, Nov. 9, 1728, with this remarkable promise. that "*any thing, which any body should send as Mr. Pope's or Dr. Swift's, should be inserted and published as theirs.*"

Pope Alexander's supremacy and infallibility examined, &c. By George Duckett and John Dennis, quarto.

Dean Jonathan's Paraphrase on the ivth chapter of Genesis. Writ by E. Roome, folio, 1729.

Labeo. A paper of verses by Leonard Welsted, which after came into *One Epistle*, and was published by James

Moore, quarto, 1730. Another part of it came out in Welsted's own name, under the just title of Dulness and Scandal, folio, 1731.

There have been since published.

Verses on the Imitator of Horace. By a Lady [or between a Lady, a Lord, and a Court-'squire.] Printed for J. Roberts, folio.

An Epistle from a Nobleman to a Doctor of Divinity, from Hampton-court [Lord H—y.] Printed for J. Roberts also, folio.

A Letter from Mr. Cibber to Mr. Pope. Printed for W. Lewis in Covent-garden, octavo.

III.

ADVERTISEMENT

To the FIRST EDITION with Notes, in Quarto, 1729.

IT will be sufficient to say of this edition, that the reader has here a much more, correct and complete copy of the *DUNCIAD*, than has hitherto appeared. I cannot answer but some mistakes may have slipped into it, but a vast number of others will be prevented by the names being now not only set at length, but justified by the authorities and reasons given. I make no doubt, the author's own motive to use real rather than feigned names, was his care to preserve the innocent from any false application; whereas in the former editions, which had no more than the initial letters, he was made, by keys printed here, to hurt the inoffensive; and (what was worse) to abuse his friends, by an impression at Dublin.

The commentary which attends this poem was sent me from several hands, and consequently must be unequally written; yet will have one advantage over most

commentaries, that it is not made upon conjectures, or at a remote distance of time: And the reader cannot but derive one pleasure from the very *Obscurity* of the persons it treats of, that it partakes of the nature of a *Secret*, which most people love to be let into, though the men or the things be ever so inconsiderable or trivial.

Of the *Persons* it was judged proper to give some account: For since it is only in this monument that they must expect to survive (and here survive they will, as long as the English tongue shall remain such as it was in the reigns of Queen ANNE and King GEORGE) it seem'd but humanity to bestow a word or two upon each, just to tell what he was, what he writ, when he lived, and when he died.

If a word or two more are added upon the chief offenders, 'tis only as a paper pinn'd upon the breast, to mark the enormities for which they suffered; lest the correction only should be remembered, and the crime forgotten.

In some articles it was thought sufficient, barely to transcribe from Jacob Curl, and other writers of their own rank, who were much better acquainted with them than any of the authors of this comment can pretend to be. Most of them had drawn each others characters on certain occasions; but the few here inserted are all that could be saved from the general destruction of such works.

Of the part of Scriblerus I need say nothing; his manner is well enough known, and approved by all but those who are too much concerned to be judges.

The Imitations of the Ancients are added, to gratify those who either never read, or may have forgotten them; together with some of the parodies and allusions to the most excellent of the Moderns. If, from the frequency of the former, any man think the poem too much a Cento, our Poet will but appear to have done the same thing in jest which Boileau did in earnest; and upon which Vida, Fracastorius, and many of the most eminent Latin poets, professedly valued themselves.

IV.

ADVERTISEMENT

To the FIRST EDITION of

The FOURTH BOOK of the DUNCIAD, when
printed separately in the Year 1742.

WE apprehend it can be deemed no injury to the author of the three first books of the Dunciad, that we publish this Fourth. It was found merely by accident, in taking a survey of the *Library* of a late eminent nobleman; but in so blotted a condition, and in so many detached pieces, as plainly shewed it not only to be *incorrect*. but *unfinished*. That the author of the three first books had a design to extend and complete his poem in this manner, appears from the dissertation prefixed to it, where it is said, that *the design is more extensive, and that we may expect other episodes to complete it*: And from the declarations in the argument to the third book, that *the accomplishment of the prophecies therein, would be the theme hereafter of a greater Dunciad*. But whether or no he be the author of this, we declare ourselves ignorant. If he be, we are no more to be blamed for the publication of it, than *Tucca* and *Varius* for that of the last six books of the *Aeneid*, tho' perhaps inferior to the former.

If any person be possessed of a more perfect copy of this work, or of any other fragments of it, and will communicate them to the publisher, we shall make the next edition more complete: In which we also promise to insert any *Criticism* that shall be published (if at all to the purpose) with the *Names* of the *Authors*; or any letters sent us (though not to the purpose) shall yet be printed under the title of *Epistolæ Obscurorum Virorum* which, together with some others of the same kind f

merly laid by for that end, may make no unpleasant addition to the future impressions of this poem.

V.

ADVERTISEMENT

To the complete EDITION of 1743.

I HAVE long had a design of giving some sort of Notes on the works of this poet. Before I had the happiness of his acquaintance, I had written a commentary on his *Essay on Man*, and have since finished another on the *Essay on Criticism*. There was one already on the *Dunciad*, which had met with general approbation: but I still thought some additions were wanting (of a more serious kind) to the humorous notes of *Scriblerus*, and even to those written by Mr. *Cleland*, Dr. *Arbutnot*, and others. I had lately the pleasure to pass some months with the author in the country, where I prevailed upon him to do what I had long desired, and favour me with his explanation of several passages in his works. It happened, that just at that juncture was published a ridiculous book against him, full of Personal Reflections which furnished him with a lucky opportunity of improving *This Poem*, by giving it the only thing it wanted, a *more considerable Hero*. He was always sensible of its defect in that particular, and owned he had let it pass with the Hero it had, purely for want of a better; not entertaining the least expectation that such an one was reserved for this Post, as has since obtained the *Laurel*: But since that had happened, he could no longer deny this justice either to *him* or the *Dunciad*.

And yet I will venture to say, there was another motive which had still more weight with our Author: This person was one, who from every Folly (not to say Vice) of which another would be ashamed, has constantly de-

rived a *Vanity*; and therefore was the *man in the world*
who would least be hurt by it. W. W.

VI.

ADVERTISEMENT

Printed in the JOURNALS, 1730.

WHEREAS, upon occasion of certain Pieces relating to the Gentlemen of the Dunciad, some have been willing to suggest, as if they looked upon them as an *abuse*: we can do no less than own, it is our opinion, that to call these Gentlemen *bad authors* is no sort of *abuse*, but a great *truth*. We cannot alter this opinion without some reason; but we promise to do it in respect to every person who thinks it an injury to be represented as no *Wit*, or *Poet*, provided he procures a Certificate of his being really such, from any *three of his companions* in the Dunciad, or from Mr. *Dennis singly*, who is esteemed equal to any three of the number.

O 2

VII.

A

Parallel of the Characters

O F

Mr. DRYDEN and Mr. POPE.

As drawn by certain of their Contemporaries.

Mr. DRYDEN.

HIS POLITICS, RELIGION, MORALS.

MR. Dryden is a mere renegado from monarchy, poetry, and good sense ^a. A true republican son of monarchical Church ^b. A republican Atheist ^c. Dryden was from the beginning an ἀλλοπρόσαλλος, and I doubt not will continue so to the last ^d.

In the poem called *Absalom and Achitophel* are notoriously traduced, The KING, the QUEEN, the LORDS, and GENTLEMEN, not only their honourable persons exposed, but the whole NATION and its REPRESENTATIVES notoriously libelled. It is *scandalum magnatum*, yea of MAJESTY itself ^e.

He looks upon God's gospel as a foolish fable, like the Pope, to whom he is a pitiful purveyor ^f. His very christianity may be questioned ^g. He ought to expect more severity than other men, as he is most unmerciful

^a Milbourn on Dryden's printed for R. Janeway, Virgil, 8vo. 1698. p. 6. 1682. Preface.

^b pag. 38. ^c pag. 192.

^d pag. 8.

^e Whip and Key, 4to.

^f Ibid.

^g Milbourn, p. 9.

VII.

A

Parallel of the Characters
O F

Mr. POPE and Mr. DRYDEN.

As drawn by certain of their Contemporaries.

Mr. P O P E.

His POLITICS, RELIGION, MORALS.

MR. Pope is an open and mortal enemy to his country, and the commonwealth of learning ^a. Some call him a popish whig, which is directly inconsistent ^b. Pope, as a papist, must be a tory and high flyer ^c. He is both a whig and tory ^d.

He hath made it his custom to cackle to more than one party in their own sentiments ^e.

In his Miscellanies, the persons abused are, The KING, the QUEEN, His late MAJESTY, both Houses of PARLIAMENT, the Privy Council, the Bench of BISHOPS, the Established CHURCH, the present MINISTRY, &c. To make Sense of some passages, they must be construed into ROYAL SCANDAL ^f.

He is a Popish Rhymester, bred up with a contempt of the Sacred Writings ^g. His Religion allows him to destroy Hereticks, not only with his pen, but with fire and sword; and such were all those unhappy Wits whom he

^a Dennis's Rem. on the Rape of the Lock, Pref. p. xii. | Journal, June 22, 1728.

^b Dunciad dissected.

^c Pref. to Gulliveriana.

^d Dennis, Character of Mr. P. | the Preface to it, p. 6.

^e Dennis, Remarks on

^f Theobald, Let. in Miff's Homer, p. 27.

in his own reflections on others ^b. With as good a right as his Holiness, he sets up for poetical infallibility ¹.

Mr. DRYDEN only a Versifier.

His whole Libel is all bad matter, beautified (which is all that can be said of it) with good metre ^k. Mr. Dryden's genius did not appear in any thing more than his Versification, and whether he is to be ennobled for that only, is a question ^l.

Mr. DRYDEN'S VIRGIL.

Tonson calls it *Dryden's Virgil*, to shew that this is not that Virgil so admired in the Augustæan age; but a Virgil of another stamp, a silly, impertinent, nonsensical writer ^m. None but a Bavius, a Mævius, or a Bathyllus carp'd at Virgil; and none but such unthinking Vermin admire his Translator ⁿ. It is true, soft and easy lines might become Ovid's Epistles or Art of Love—But Virgil, who is all great and majestic, &c. requires strength of lines, weight of words, and closeness of expressions; not an ambling Muse running on Carpet ground, and shod as lightly as a Newmarket racer—He has numberless faults in his Author's meaning; and in propriety of expression ^o.

Mr. DRYDEN understood no Greek nor Latin.

Mr. Dryden was once, I have heard, at Westminster school: Dr. Busby would have whipt him for so childish a Paraphrase ^p. The meanest Pedant in England would whip a Lubber of twelve for construing so absurdly ^q. The Translator is mad, every line betrays his Stupidity ^r. The faults are innumerable, and convince me that Mr. Dryden did not, or would not understand his Author ^s. This shews how fit Mr. D. may be to translate *Homer*! A mistake in a single letter might fall on the Printer well enough, but $\iota\chi\omega\rho$ for $\iota\chi\omega\rho$ must be the error of the Author: Nor had he art enough to correct it at the Press ^t.

^a Ibid. p. 175. ¹ pag. 39.

^k Whip and Key, Pref.

^l Oldmixon, Essay on Criticism, p. 84.

^m Milbourn, pag. 2.

ⁿ Pag. 35. ^o p. 22 & 192.

^p Milbourn, p. 72. ^q p. 203.

^r Pag 78. ^s p. 206. ^t p. 19.

sacrificed to his accursed Popish Principles ^u. It deserved Vengeance to suggest that Mr. Pope had less Infallibility than his Namefake at Rome ^w.

Mr. POPE only a Versifier.

The smooth numbers of the Dunciad are all that recommend it, nor has it any other merit ^x. It must be owned that he hath got a notable knack of rhyming and writing smooth verse ^y.

Mr. POPE's HOMER.

The Homer which Lintot prints does not talk like Homer, but like Pope; and he who translated him, one would swear, had a hill in Tipperary for his Parnassus, and a puddle in some Bog for his Hippocrene ^z. He has no Admirers among those that can distinguish, discern, and judge ^a.

He hath a knack at smooth verse, but without either Genius or good sense, or any tolerable knowledge of English. The qualities which distinguish Homer are the beauties of his Diction and the Harmony of his Versification—But this little Author, who is so much in vogue, has neither sense in his Thoughts nor English in his Expressions ^b.

Mr. POPE understood no Greek.

He hath undertaken to translate Homer from the Greek, of which he knows not one word, into English, of which he understands as little ^c. I wonder how this Gentleman would look, should it be discover'd, that he has not translated ten verses together in any book of Homer with justice to the Poet, and yet he dares reproach his fellow-writers with not understanding Greek ^d. He has stuck

^u Preface to Gulliveriana, p. 11.

^w Dedication to the Collection of Verses, Letters, &c. p. 9.

^x Mist's Journal of June 8, 1728.

^y Character of Mr. P. and Dennis on Hom.

^z Dennis's Remarks on Pope's Homer, p. 12.

^a Ibid. p. 14.

^b Character of Mr. P, p. 17. and Remarks on Homer, p. 91.

^c Dennis's Remarks on Homer, p. 12.

^d Daily Jour. Ap. 23, 1728.

Mr. Dryden writes for the Court Ladies—He writes for the Ladies, and not for use ^e.

The Translator puts in a little Burlesque now and then into Virgil, for a Ragout to his cheated Subscribers ^f.

Mr. DRYDEN trick'd his Subscribers.

I wonder that any man, who could not but be conscious of his own unfitness for it, should go to amuse the learned world with such an undertaking! A Man ought to value his Reputation more than Money; and not to hope that those who can read for themselves will be imposed upon, merely by a partially and unseasonably celebrated Name ^g. *Poetis quidlibet audendi* shall be Mr. Dryden's Motto, though it should extend to picking of pockets ^h.

Names bestow'd on Mr. DRYDEN.

AN APE.] A crafty Ape drest up in a gaudy gown—Whips put into an Ape's paw, to play pranks with—None but Apish and Papish brats will heed him ⁱ.

AN ASS.] A Camel will take upon him no more burden than is sufficient for his strength, but there is another beast that crouches under all ^k.

A FROG.] Poet Squab endued with Poet Maro's spirit! an ugly croaking kind of Vermin, which would swell to the bulk of an Ox ^l.

A COWARD.] A Clinias or a Damætas, or a man of Mr. Dryden's own Courage ^m.

A KNAVE.] Mr. Dryden has heard of Paul, the Knave of Jesus Christ: And, if I mistake not, I've read somewhere of John Dryden, Servant to his Majesty ⁿ.

A FOOL.] Had he not been such a self-conceited Fool^o.—Some great Poets are positive Blockheads ^p.

A THING.] So little a Thing as Mr. Dryden ^q.

^e Pag. 144, 190. ^f p. 67.

^g Pag. 192. ^h p. 125.

ⁱ Whip and Key, Pref.

^k Milb. p. 105.

^l Pag. 11. ^m p. 76. ⁿ p. 57.

^o Whip and Key, Pref.

^p Milbourn, p. 34.

^q Ibid. p. 35.

so little to his Original as to have his knowledge in Greek called in question ^r. I should be glad to know which it is of all Homer's Excellencies which has so delighted the Ladies, and the Gentlemen who judge like Ladies ^s.

But he has a notable talent at Burlesque; his genius slides so naturally into it, that he hath burlesqued Homer without designing it ^t.

Mr. POPE trick'd his Subscribers.

'Tis indeed somewhat bold, and almost prodigious, for a single man to undertake such a work: But 'tis too late to dissuade by demonstrating the madness of the Project. The Subscribers expectations have been raised in proportion to what their Pockets have been drained of ^u. Pope has been concerned in Jobs, and hid out his Name to Booksellers ^w.

Names bestow'd on Mr. POPE.

An APE.] Let us take the initial letter of his Christian name, and the initial and final letters of his surname, viz. APE, and they give you the same idea of an Ape as his Face ^x, &c.

An Ass.] It is my duty to pull off the Lion's skin from this little Ass ^y.

A FROG.] A squab short Gentlemen—a little creature that, like the Frog in the fable, swells, and is angry that it is not allow'd to be as big as an Ox ^z.

A COWARD.] A lurking way-laying Coward ^a.

A KNAVE.] He is one whom God and nature have mark'd for want of common honesty ^b.

A FOOL.] Great Fools will be christen'd by the names of great Poets, and Pope will be call'd Homer ^c.

A THING.] A little abject Thing ^d.

¹ Suppl. to the Profund, May 11, 1728.

Pref.

² Oldmixon, Essay on

Criticism, p. 66

³ Dennis's Remarks, p. 28.

⁴ Homerides p. 1, &c.

⁵ Brit. Jr. Nov. 25, 1727.

⁶ Dennis, Daily journal,

⁷ Dennis, Rem. on Hom.

Pref.

⁸ Dennis Rem. on the Rape of the Lock, Pref. p. 9.

⁹ Ch of Mr. P. p. 3. ¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Dennis, Rem. on Homer, p. 37. ¹² Ibid. p. 8.

I N D E X

O F

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